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Japan

Japan: Document To Include Article on Reviewing USFJ Strength

OW1302140996 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN in Japanese 11 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The government firmed up a plan on 10 February to specify in a Japan-U.S. joint document to be released during President Clinton's visit to Japan in April that the United States will maintain a troop strength of around 100,000 in the Northeast Asia region, including Japan, and that of this number, the U.S. Forces in Japan will maintain the current troop strength of about 47,000 in Japan. However, taking into consideration Okinawan people's reaction to the maintenance of "about 47,000 effectives," the government decided to include in the joint document an article with expressions to the effect that "there is the possibility that troop strength will be reviewed depending on the development of the international situation."

After coordinating with the U.S. side through diplomatic channels, the government plans to give official approval to the document at a meeting between Yukihiko Ikeda and U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, who is to visit Japan just before the President's visit.

A draft of the joint document was prepared in November last year, when President Clinton was scheduled to visit. After that, however, the draft had to be revised in response to the inauguration of the Hashimoto Cabinet and the signing of an agreement between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) on the supply of light water reactors.

On the maintenance of about 47,000 effectives in Japan, Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota requested (then) Prime Minister Murayama last November not to specify such a number in the document, saying "it would lead to letting the U.S. military stay in Japan permanently." In reply, Murayama showed reluctance to meet the request, saying "We will negotiate with the U.S. side, but we are in a difficult situation."

After reviewing the situation, the government has judged that the United States wants to maintain the current troop strength and that if the document does not include "about 47,000 effectives," it may send a "wrong signal" (according to a government source) to North Korea and China. The government, instead of specifying "a strength of around 100,000" and "about 47,000 effectives" in the document, has finally decided to respond to the Okinawa side's request by adding the "article" noting troop strength may be reviewed depending on a change in the international situation.

Japan: Government Proposes Relocating MCAS Futenma

OW1402102896 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 12 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of U.S. military bases on Okinawa will become an important topic of discussion at a Japan-U.S. summit meeting between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Clinton slated for the end of this month. It was disclosed on 11 February that the government is studying the possibility of relocating Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma to Iwakuni City, Yamaguchi Prefecture. The government will try to compromise with the prefectural government at the negotiating table by launching the plan to relocate the air station, which Okinawa places at the top of its list of U.S. base cuts, to the mainland of Japan. Meanwhile, the government wants to counter the view of some people in the United States who want to withdraw the U.S. military from Japan, to firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. security arrangements.

Currently, 47,000 U.S. military personnel are stationed in Japan. Of these, about 20,000 are Marines, and most are stationed on Okinawa. The 36th Marine Air Group, the 17th Marine Air Support Group, and the 18th Marine Air Control Group — which belong to the 1st Marine Air Unit — are at Futenma, which is said to be a "symbol" of the U.S. Forces in Japan.

The 12th U.S. Marine Air Group, which belongs to the 1st Marine Air Unit, is already stationed at Iwakuni. In addition, the 31st Air Group and the 111th Air Unit of the Maritime Self-Defense Force are there, enabling the Marines to use existing facilities at Iwakuni. In addition, the Yamaguchi Post of the Ground Self-Defense Force [SDF] is located nearby, positively promoting personnel exchanges between the U.S. military and the SDF and creating reliable relations. Therefore, the proposal to relocate MCAS Futenma to Iwakuni has emerged.

Moreover, there are security benefits. A Defense Agency source said: "There will be no fear of the U.S. military withdrawing its troops to such a far place as Hawaii or Guam." Relocation has political significance, too. A source connected with the Prime Minister's Official Residence said the relocation plan could also "ease the frustration of the Okinawan people."

On 9 February, a U.S. Government source disclosed that the U.S. Government is studying the need to keep MCAS Futenma, saying: "Currently, we are of the view that we need both (Kadena Air Base) and Futenma. However, we are studying to see whether we really need Futenma or if we can reduce the base functions."

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In addition to Futenma, the Japanese Government is also planning to relocate the Marine Corps' Camp Fuji Headquarters Battalion in Shizuoka Prefecture to Iwakuni.

Moreover, as bargaining points, the government is studying, among other things, plans 1) to offer Higashifuji Training Ground — which is located on the boundary between Gotenba city, Oyama-cho, and Susono city, Shizuoka Prefecture — and Kitafuji Training Ground, located in both Fujiyoshida city and Yamanakako-son of Yamanashi Prefecture for use by the U.S. military; and 2) to construct a large-scale training field for the U.S. military near those training grounds.

However, it is uncertain how the United States will respond to the proposal. Moreover, coordination with local governments, which has not yet been done, is expected to face rough going.

Japan: Editorial Views U.S. Demands at Base Talks

OW1402040996 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 12 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 5

[Editorial: "Concern Over Diplomatic Tactics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japan-U.S. negotiations on U.S. military bases on Okinawa are gradually becoming active, as the April Hashimoto-Clinton summit draws near. The United States has recently shown seemingly "positive" responses, but U.S. interest in "bargaining" and "negotiations" are observed at the same time. Are U.S. bases on Okinawa, which have been fixed on the islands for half a century, going to be reduced, or will the scaling down of bases be deadlocked by unexpected "conditions" brought up by the United States? The Okinawa issue is reaching a climax.

The demand for realignment and reduction of U.S. bases has become a big issue for Japan and the United States, and the two nations are now considering possibilities of realigning, reducing, or removing U.S. bases as well as reducing troops. So far, the United States has taken a stern attitude toward demands by Okinawans, stressing the bases' strategic significance. The United States has been consistent on the point that its policy of maintaining the present strength of forces is untouchable.

According to a diplomatic source, however, Walter Slocombe, U.S. assistant secretary of defense for policy [title as published], has explained that the United States may study reducing U.S. Forces Japan [USFJ] troop levels. He reportedly said that "treatment of troop strength can be the focal point" of intergovernmental negotiations. This is regarded as an indication of possible U.S. troop cuts made by transferring U.S. Marine Corps units. Also, a report from Washington says the United States is "carefully studying if Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma is really necessary, and if it is possible to scale down its functions."

MCAS Futenma Becoming Focal Point

The U.S. strategy for East Asia requires 100,000 U.S. troops in East Asia, including 47,000 in the USFJ. The United States has been following the basic strategy so far. In fact, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has repeatedly noted the United States has no intention of cutting the USFJ's 47,000-man strength.

It appears Japan-U.S. negotiations faced rough going due to the United States' strong demand for including USFJ strength in the new joint communique. However, the clause on the need for the present strength of the USFJ is likely to be erased from the communique.

The clause justifying perpetuation of U.S. bases faced strong objections from Okinawa, and the Japanese Government seemingly gave certain consideration to voices from Okinawa on this point. In a way, the United States' recent offer to handle "troop strength as the focal point" may be seen as a positive sign, although it is not very clear yet.

In response to the Okinawa bases problem, the United States is beginning to consider revising its basic strategy of "troop strength." President Bill Clinton is probably wary of public attitudes toward worsening Japan-U.S. security arrangements since the troubles with Okinawa began. In addition, some speculators note that transferring USMC units is less expensive than for other forces.

The United States is certainly aware that anti-U.S. base movements in Okinawa are intensified by people's frustration with too many base-related troubles, violations of human rights symbolized by the rape of a schoolgirl, and a U.S. military presence unchanged for 50 years since the war.

Also, the U.S. Government cannot ignore criticisms and proposals from U.S. politicians and experts. In fact, Chalmers Johnson, director of the Japan Policy Research Institute, has clearly stated: "Now that the Cold War is over, no military uncertainties exist in the Asia-Pacific region, and this denies the need for large quantity of ground forces. There is no need to station USMC and other ground forces in Japan."

M. Mochizuki, a senior staff member of the Brookings Institution, has called for withdrawing Marines from Okinawa, and Senator Daniel Inouye also supports transferring USMC units from Okinawa to Hawaii.

Criticism of USFJ stationing in Okinawa is gaining power in the United States.

Under such circumstances, the United States is seemingly leaning toward a position that a settlement of the bases problem in line with Okinawan demands is preferable for maintaining long-term security ties and reinforcing bilateral ties with Japan.

Consideration for Okinawa Wanted in Negotiations

Nevertheless, a problem lies in the point that the United States is offering dangerous and difficult conditions in return for reducing the USFJ and subsequently transferring USMC units. The conditions offered by the United States cannot be easily accepted.

At a recent meeting of the Special Action Committee, the United States requested Japan to "provide legal measures to enable the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to immediately respond to emergency situations." In other words, the United States wants to see clearer definition of Japan's defense forces.

The U.S. request is based on the following standpoint: "The U.S. forces are stationed in Japan to ensure its security, and reduction of the USFJ is difficult without Japan's legislation to enable the SDF to fully cope with emergency situations."

It seems the United States wants to clarify Japan's responsibility for defense and security of its territories and neighboring regions. However, the unexpected insertion of controversial SDF-related issues into the Okinawa issue may make it difficult to settle the main issue.

It seems the Japanese Government has begun to informally study emergency legislation. However, defense issues are sensitive topics in Japan especially when those are discussed in connection with the right to collective defense. Insertion of such controversial debates can delay the tendency toward realignment and reduction of U.S. bases in Okinawa. We hope the United States will from from too many demands, and the Japanese Government will focus its diplomatic negotiations on the base problem of Okinawa.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto is going to visit the United States on 23 February at a time when he is quite busy coping with Diet debate on liquidation of housing loan companies. At the upcoming summit talks, Hashimoto and Clinton are expected to discuss the base issue, as well as the overall relations between Japan and the United States. If the prime minister really understands problems of too many bases in Okinawa, he is supposed to keep in mind interest of "Okinawa" by seeking diplomatic achievements in line with the wishes of people in Okinawa and the entire nation. He should not fall for diplomatic tricks of "shrewd" U.S. negotiators.

Japan: Hashimoto Walks Tightrope Over Base Issue

962B0030A Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 16 Jan 96 p 2

[Unattributed Article from ASAHI SHIMBUN: "Differences Exist Between Central Government and Okinawa Prefecture As Japan-U.S. Talks Are Held on U.S. Bases—New Hashimoto Government Faces Precarious Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

In the latter part of January, Japan and the United States will commence consultations on the adjustment and reduction of facilities and areas used by the U.S. Forces in Okinawa. The two governments intend to compile an "interim report" and determine a course for the negotiations by the time President Clinton visits Japan in the middle of April when he is expected to reaffirm the significance of the Japan-U.S. security system. However, there is a wide gap between the Okinawa prefectural government which seeks the return of the Futenma Air Station and the central government which places significance on the requirements of the U.S. Government which are premised on the maintenance of essential functions of the U.S. Forces in Japan, and the situation is such that it will be difficult to develop a concrete solution. Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto faces a precarious situation including the litigation schedule concerning the mandatory use of U.S. Forces-occupied lands.

During a press conference on the 12th, Prime Minister Hashimoto stated, in connection with the adjustment and reduction of U.S. Forces bases in Okinawa, "I become overcome with shame when I ask myself the question, have we shared in the erstwhile tribulations and sorrows of the Okinawan people?" thus, emphasizing his intention to extend optimum consideration to the wishes of the Okinawan prefectural citizens. Further, he stated, from the viewpoint of aiming at the stability of Japan-U.S. relations, "I wish to seek U.S. cooperation of a scope that will enable me to convince the public of the essentiality of the Japan-U.S. security system," indicating the Hashimoto cabinet will cope with the issue on a positive note.

However, the time left for the new cabinet to resolve the issue is limited. In November 1995, then-Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Vice President Gore held talks in which they agreed to the establishment of a special action committee concerning adjustments and reductions in U.S. bases. The committee is scheduled to complete its work in one year. Initially, the government was scheduled to produce an interim report by the holiday season in May by holding working-team-level talks of the Japan-U.S. security system.

However, the schedule for producing the interim report was accelerated because of the decision made for President Clinton to visit Japan on 16-18 April. Further, because the request from the Okinawa prefectural government was postponed from the end of 1995 to the end of January [1996], the time left for review has been shortened even more.

The request from the Okinawa prefectural government is expected to center around the return of the Futenma Air Station. However, Japanese government sources embrace the strong opinion, with respect to the air station which is the U.S. Marine helicopter base, "that the U.S. military will not readily agree to the release of the air station," and that the talks cannot be expected to be concluded on a smooth basis.

On the other hand, the litigation wherein the prime minister has sued Okinawa Prefecture Governor Masahide Ota to force him to discharge his duties concerning the mandatory use of U.S. Forces-occupied land in Okinawa is also expected to adversely affect the Japan-U.S. negotiations.

Inasmuch as leases on some of the land currently in use by the U.S. Forces will expire by the end of March, the government hopes to obtain a judicial decision by the middle of March so that the prime minister can execute a proxy signature and submit a petition for mandatory use ruling to the Prefectural Expropriation Committee by the end of March.

The government wishes to use that approach as it will enable it to seek approval of the committee for six-month "emergency use" of land on which leases have expired, on the basis of the Law Providing for Special Disposition of U.S. Forces Land, allowing for more time to make final arrangements.

However, there is the possibility that actions by the prefectural government may result in the extension of judicial proceedings and that the leases will expire before action can be taken on "emergency use." In that instance, the U.S. Forces base issue could be thrown into turbulence and the creation of a deadlock on Japan-U.S. talks prior to the President's visit to Japan.

The rape of a young girl by U.S. military personnel in September caused increased distrust in the Japan-U.S. security system and has motivated the Japanese and U.S. Governments to undertake talks on the review of procedures for handling criminal judicial cases and on the development of agreements on noise abatement.

However, as stated by an official of the Defense Agency, reality dictates, "It will be difficult to seek an easing of the base issue, without any adjustment or reduction in bases." It appears that in his mediator role between Okinawa and the United States, Prime Minister Hashimoto will be forced to make some political decisions.

Okinawa's Requests Concerning Base Issue and Japan-U.S. Talks

Category/Case Count	Okinawan Request	Results and Status of Japan-U.S. Talks
Adjustment/Reduction of Bases		
23 cases	Early Return	Agreed to return within three years
3 cases	Early Return	Relocation plan presented; working committee to study artillery firing over Prefectural Highway 104.
Others	Submission of concrete plan scheduled for end of January	Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee to study detailed plan from Okinawa Prefecture.
Criminal Trial Procedures	Revise Status of Forces Agreement	Procedures revised for transfer of custody of suspects before indictment.
Base Noise Pollution	Early signing of Noise Abatement Agreement	Work commenced on development of agreement
Military Vehicle Identification	Facilitate identification	Talks initiated with intent for early change in identification system.
Compensation System	Establishment of compensation system for offenses committed by U.S. military personnel	No progress made on talks

Footnote: In 1990, Japan and the United States had agreed to proceed with return of bases in connection with "23 cases," but 10 such cases remain unresolved. "3 cases" include the Naha port facilities, the Yomitani Auxiliary Air Station, and artillery firing over the prefectural highway.

Japan: UN Official, Ikeda Discuss Humanitarian Role

OW1402090796 Tokyo KYODO in English
0814 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — The next head of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs urged Japan Wednesday [14 February] to play an active role in international humanitarian affairs, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Yasushi Akashi, a Japanese national who oversaw UN-led peace efforts in Cambodia and in the Former Yugoslavia, made the pitch in a brief meeting with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, the official told reporters.

Ikeda responded that it is natural for Tokyo to contribute to such efforts, adding he would appreciate Akashi's advice on specific assistance policies.

Akashi, 65, will assume his new post March 1.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs oversees organizations involved in humanitarian activities such as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Japan: Ikeda, ROK Ambassador Discuss Territorial Row

OW1402114996 Tokyo KYODO in English
1141 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Japan and South Korea collided head-on Wednesday [14 February] over a group of disputed islets claimed by both sides, a Foreign Ministry official said.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, South Korean Ambassador to Japan Kim Tae-chi said the rocky islands in the Sea of Japan are an integral part of South Korea, the official told reporters.

While saying Seoul is aware of Tokyo's claim to Takeshima or the Tokto islands in Korean, the ambassador maintained South Korea has no intention to discuss the question of their ownership with Japan.

Ikeda, for his part, reiterated Japan's position but added the dispute over the islets, now controlled by South Korea, should not poison bilateral relations.

The two men agreed to seek a resolution through dialogue of problems arising from the two countries' future application of a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone in line with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

But Kim said Seoul will refuse to participate in any talks about the territorial row in bilateral negotiations on the 1982 UN treaty, which went into force last November. The imposition of an economic zone would grant a country the exclusive right to fish or to exploit natural resources such as oil, reclaim land or construct artificial islands within its sea area.

The long-simmering quarrel over the islets has flared up again between the two countries recently amid Japan's preparedness to declare an economic zone off its shores.

Wrangling between the two nations has escalated since South Korea's plan to build a wharf on the islets was revealed earlier this month.

In the meeting with Kim, Ikeda spoke of the need for Tokyo and Seoul not to aggravate the rising tension over the sovereignty of the islands, the official said.

He said the current Japanese Government's stance on the territorial claim is totally unchanged from that of previous governments.

Earlier Wednesday, a senior Foreign Ministry official expressed hope the row will not hurt bilateral ties and sought a calm attitude from both sides.

Tokyo Said To 'Act Calmly' in Dispute With Seoul

OW1402091696 Tokyo KYODO in English
0901 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Japan hopes to maintain sound relations with South Korea regardless of the two countries' row over a group of disputed islands, a senior Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday [14 February].

"We would like to cherish our ties (with South Korea)," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, in reference to a dispute over the rocky islets, known in Japan as Takeshima and as Tokto in South Korea.

"We intend to act calmly and we expect South Korea to do the same," said the official.

The quarrel over the uninhabited islands, which lie about halfway between the two nations, has been reignited recently amid Japan's readiness to apply a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone through the ratification of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Japan: Source Predicts Dispute With PRC Over Maritime Boundary

OW1302150696 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN
in Japanese 12 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Ministry source disclosed on 11 February that the ministry believes it is highly likely that China conducted trial-digging at an undersea oil field early this month using the Chinese excavation ship "Kantan No. 3," which is anchored near the Senkaku Islands. The ministry grasped the situation when the Marine Safety Agency's patrol boat monitoring the "Kantei No. 3" informed the ministry it had confirmed what appeared to be a gas- combustion flame discharged from the excavation ship.

The ministry requested the Chinese Foreign Ministry via diplomatic channels to immediately withdraw the "Kantei No. 3" because the ship, going beyond the center line of the continental shelf in the East China Sea, had entered Japan-controlled area, and said that if China rules this out, China should show grounds for its denial.

In response, China countered that the Chinese Government's understanding is that all of the continental shelf is under the jurisdiction of China, and therefore Japan's claims that the center of the continental shelf is a boundary between Japan and China cannot be accepted, and that even if a center line is taken as a boundary line, the "Kantei No. 3" is still anchored in Chinese waters. In this way, there is a wide gap between Japan and China.

However, it is certain that if oil resources should be discovered there, the Chinese side will claim the area. The Japanese Government for its part is scheduled to approve at a Cabinet meeting on 16 February the establishment of a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone, including the Senkaku Islands. However, due to China's trial-digging, it is unavoidable that Japan-China discord over dominium over the Senkaku Islands and a gap in their position on the continental shelf boundary will surface, in addition to recent resuscitation of a Japan-ROK confrontation over dominium over the Takeshima Islands in the Sea of Japan.

The Foreign Ministry source said that "Kantei No. 3" has been anchored near the Senkaku Islands since last December. In this connection, when then Foreign Minister Yohei Kono visited China late last December, he took up this issue at his talks with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, and called on him to stop conducting oil probes, saying "it may have a bad influence on Japan-China relations."

Japan: Kajiyama Says Cabinet Unlikely To Approve Economic Zone

OW1402064896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0542 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — The cabinet is unlikely to approve a plan to set up a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone on Friday [16 February] as has been scheduled, apparently in the wake of a territorial row with South Korea, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

"I hope we can decide on it early," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a press conference.

But arranging the timing among the three ruling parties — the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake — may take a little more time, Kajiyama said.

Some LDP members say the government should take a stronger stand on the territorial dispute over the Takeshima group of islets in the Sea of Japan, which are referred to as Tokto in South Korea.

The government aims to endorse the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to the Diet and hopes the parliament ratifies it by the time the ongoing 150-day regular session ends June 19, he said.

The convention obliges signatory countries to respect a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone off a nation's coasts.

Relations between Japan and South Korea have been strained over Takeshima, claimed by Tokyo and Seoul and located within 200 nautical miles of both countries.

Japan: MITI Minister Tsukahara Leaves for Thailand

OW1402125896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1148 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Shunpei Tsukahara left Japan for Thailand on Wednesday [14 February] evening to attend a meeting in Chiang Rai on Thursday of Asian economic ministers.

The meeting in the northern Thai city is aimed at laying the groundwork for the inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), a gathering that will bring together top leaders of Asian and European countries in Bangkok on March 1-2.

Tsukahara will return home Friday.

Japan: Council Proposes NTT Breakup by End of FY98

OW1302123696 Tokyo KYODO in English
1200 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO — An advisory panel to the posts and telecommunications minister agreed Tuesday [13 February] to propose a breakup of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone corp. (NTT) into one long-distance and two regional telephone companies by the end of fiscal 1998, officials said.

They said the telecommunication council will complete a formal proposal at its session scheduled for Feb. 29.

After the domestic telecommunication giant is split into three small entities, the government will sell its entire stake in the long-distance company to make it a totally independent private firm, the officials said.

The long-distance company will be allowed to engage in a wide range of operations, including both international and regional telecommunication service, mobile telephone service and cable television, they said.

No restrictions will be imposed on its operations overseas, they said.

The two regional telephone companies will cover the eastern and western halves of the country as their service areas, the officials said.

No mergers between long-distance and regional telephone companies will be permitted, they said.

They said that existing law governing international telecom giant KDD will be abolished to enable the company to enter the domestic telephone market.

Government sources, however, said the government is likely to postpone its endorsement of the breakup proposal at its meeting in late March.

NTT disputed the breakup proposal, arguing that the company's division will curtail the competitive power of the Japanese industry as a whole.

The company said competition has not been promoted in the telecommunications market due mainly to the postal ministry's failure to work out rules for competition and promote deregulation.

The company said priority should be given to deregulation over the breakup of NTT.

Japan: Ministry Reports FY95 Mobile Phone Sales

*OW1402075296 Tokyo KYODO in English
0537 GMT 14 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Sales in Japan's mobile telephone market for fiscal 1995 ending March 31 are certain to top 2 trillion yen for the first time, the postal ministry reported Wednesday [14 February].

The ministry estimated sales at 2,025.5 billion yen, up 46.0 percent over the year before.

Ministry officials said brisk sales of portable phones are responsible for the growth and the market expansion serves as a locomotive to prop up the domestic economy.

The mobile telephone industry will rank seventh among major industries in terms of sales, following electrical appliances, automobiles, electric power, telecommunications, iron and steel and shipbuilding, the officials said.

Sales by NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc. (NTT Do-Co-Mo), a subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., are estimated at 1.1 trillion yen, the officials said.

Japan: Survey Shows Corporations Favor Holding Companies

*OW1302085296 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 11 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the issue of lifting a ban on the establishment of holding companies, **ASAHI SHIMBUN** has recently conducted an urgent survey among 50 [correcting figure in initial FBIS version] major companies. Asked to what extent the ban should be lifted, the survey indicated that most companies surveyed favor "liberalizing in principle" the establishment of holding companies, as advocated by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP]. However, criticism is still strong against the Fair Trade Commission's [FTC] drastic shift in its stand, from favoring partial lifting of the ban on holding companies to making use of such companies to help failed financial institutions. The survey made it clear that economic circles have doubts about the FTC's unclear decisionmaking procedures while welcoming moves to lift the ban.

The survey was conducted from late January to early February. Asked whether the ban should be lifted, 39 companies said "it should be lifted as early as possible." None of the 50 companies answered "it should remain as it is." As for a plan proposed by the LDP and the FTC to liberalize establishment of holding companies, 40 companies said it is "appropriate" while only three said they oppose basic liberalization.

Asked what to do if the ban is lifted, none of the companies said they would immediately establish holding companies. But 38 companies said they would "study" it, while four said they "do not set up holding companies." As a prerequisite for establishing holding companies, 46 companies answered that introduction of a "consolidated return system" — designed to tax the total profits of a corporate group — is "indispensable."

On the other hand, with regard to the FTC's decision-making process, views of the companies were divided. Asked how they see the FTC's change in its position on partially lifting the ban at the strong request of the LDP, 18 companies said it was "appropriate," while 17 companies said it was "questionable."

Asked why they question the change, Kyocera Corporation said "the FTC failed to fully discuss how holding companies should be, and it was a hasty decision."

Meanwhile, Seino Transportation Co., Ltd. replied that "the FTC failed to explain its specific reasons." So distrust of the FTC seems to prevail among economic circles.

On the FTC's plan to make exceptions allowing companies to make inroads into different businesses through their holding companies while helping bail out bankrupt financial institutions, 18 companies said the plan "is appropriate" while 14 companies said "it is questionable." When we asked 10 financial institutions what they will do from now on, none of them said "we want to take advantage of holding companies to relieve failed banking organizations."

Japan: BOJ Head on Credit Stance, Mortgage, Other Issues

OW1402081396 Tokyo KYODO in English
0802 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasuo Matsushita said Wednesday [14 February] the central bank will maintain its current easy credit stance with a view to bolstering an economic recovery.

Matsushita said at a press conference the BOJ will focus on consolidating the ground for an economic recovery by a low-interest monetary policy for the time being.

Japan's official discount rate, which the central bank applies to loans to the member banks, remains at a historic low of 0.5 percent per annum.

Saying the economy is heading toward a recovery, Matsushita added, "Present low interest rates will eventually benefit the people — consumers and companies."

Turning to the controversial government scheme to use taxpayers money for the liquidation of insolvent housing loan companies, Matsushita said there is no alternative to help finance the disposal of bad loans held by the mortgage companies.

"The BOJ's special loans cannot be used to make up for losses because they are extended on assumption of repayment," Matsushita said.

"It's inappropriate to substitute special loans for taxpayers money," he said.

Any bridging loan would only cause an increase in costs of liquidating the housing lenders, Matsushita said.

Matsushita said 100 billion yen that the BOJ is required to put up to Deposit Insurance Corp. under the government's liquidation plan is aimed at "securing capital standing of a new loan-recovering vehicle."

On growing calls for reorganizing financial and monetary administration, Matsushita sounded negative on the idea of integrating the BOJ's functions with other inspection organs.

"The BOJ's inspection and monitoring are necessary functions for steering monetary policies," Matsushita said.

Matsushita then said the central bank will strengthen its monitoring of the banking industry.

Japan: Hashimoto Likely To Oppose Heavier Burden on Banks

OW1402054896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0225 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Wednesday [14 February] virtually withdrew his previous day's positive stance on a proposal to have founder banks shoulder a greater burden in the liquidation of seven failed housing loan companies.

At a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Hashimoto said, "the government would face difficult problems in starting negotiations" on this issue with banks.

On Tuesday, Hashimoto said at the session, "it is an interesting proposal and I am interested," when asked about the idea that banks, which founded the housing firms, put an additional 770 billion yen into the government's liquidation scheme.

The committee is discussing the scheme to dismantle the mortgage companies, including the use of 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money under the 1996 national budget.

Hashimoto said, an urgent solution to the housing lender issue is needed, since the problem is typical of nonperforming assets.

He stressed that the government's proposed scheme should be approved without placing an additional burden on founder banks or reducing the amount of necessary public funds.

We can propose no alternative to the government's plan, Hashimoto said.

Japan: Ex-Ministers Likely To Face Questioning Over 'Jusen'

OW1402054796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — The House of Representatives Budget Committee will call former Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and three other politicians for questioning over a controversial government scheme to wind up seven ailing mortgage firms or "jusen," committee executives said Wednesday [14 February].

Takemura and the three others — Koichi Kato, Secretary General of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), former Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and former farm minister Masami Tanabu — will appear before the lower house committee on Friday, the executives said.

Takemura, chief of New Party Sakigake, the smallest group within the tripartite ruling coalition, served as Finance Minister when the government drew up [words indistinct] last December.

Fujii and Tanabu are Diet members from the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Shinshinto had also demanded that former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama should appear before the lower house committee to be questioned about the scheme, but the ruling coalition refused.

Shinshinto officials said they will continue seeking to call Murayama for questioning before the lower house panel.

The government scheme sets aside 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money under the fiscal 1996 state budget to help mop up losses resulting from the liquidation of the seven mortgage firms.

It has come under fire from opposition parties and the public for being drafted before the issue of responsibility for the housing loan fiasco is settled.

Japan: Kubo Wants 'Jusen' Founding Banks Held Responsible

OW1402130096 Tokyo KYODO in English 1128 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said Wednesday [14 February] the founding banks of the moribund housing loan companies, known as "jusen," should be held responsible for their part in the mortgage firms' failure.

The planned establishment of an organ to liquidate seven jusen is aimed at not only collecting debts but also at holding the responsible parties accountable, Kubo said at a press conference.

Kubo's statement means that when the founding banks' responsibilities, such as the recommendation of borrowers to the jusen, are clarified, the liquidation organ will promote the collection of loans through damages suits and other means, Finance Ministry sources said.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed his interest in an opposition proposal to increase founder banks' financial burden in liquidating the jusen instead of using taxpayers' money worth 685 billion yen.

But Kubo said Hashimoto was merely referring to the proposal "as an idea." It will be extremely difficult to put the proposal into practice, Kubo added.

Japan: Next Generation of MSDF Warships Discussed

962B0016A Tokyo SEKAI NO KANSEN in Japanese Dec 95 pp 88-92

[Article by Hiroshi Nagata, former chief of staff, Japan's MSDF: "JMSDF in the Next Century—4. Thinking About Next Generation of Our Warships"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In my article titled, "Post-Cold War Maritime Self-Defense Force [MSDF]," published in the 475th volume of this magazine, I provided the analysis that the U.S. Clinton administration had abandoned the viewpoint of how the United States should conduct itself for the purpose of maintaining world order in terms of military strategy, and that it had assumed a policy emphasizing national interests wherein it would actively intervene in disputes arising in the U.S. sphere of influence known as the Western hemisphere and in disputes occurring in regions having a significant impact on U.S. interests, but make every effort to avoid intervention in local disputes which had no (or little) impact on U.S. interests and in which it was not concerned.

If such a military strategy is limited to the Clinton administration, we need not place much importance on the strategy in debating medium- and long-term strategy, but if the strategy remains the same even when and if the Republican Party assumes control of the government, it will become a different matter. The section concerning foreign policy in *The Cato Handbook for Congress—104th Congress*, published by the Cato Institute, which is said to have a major influence on the policy decisions of the Republican Party, states the United States should discontinue its alliances formed in the Cold War period by the end of this century, while in the section on East Asia, the handbook states that all U.S. military units should be withdrawn from Japan and South Korea within three to four years, and that the United States should announce that it will terminate its mutual defense treaties with Japan and South Korea by the end of this century.

If the Republican Party is influenced by the foregoing viewpoints, we must expect that the strategy of emphasizing national interests will continue in the future on a long-term basis, regardless of whether the Democrats or Republicans win next year's presidential election. If that becomes the case, just as this writer wrote in his previous article, in contemplating our nation's defense strategy, we must realize that under current circumstances we have no choice but to enhance the reliability of the U.S. nuclear umbrella in responding to any nuclear threat or nuclear attack and that in that sense alone we must strongly embrace the Japan-U.S. security system.

Towards that end, there is a need for our nation to establish good cooperative relationships in the area of economics as well as relationships of mutual existence, while promoting the maintenance and enhancement of close relationships of trust in the area of military affairs. However, in the event the United States hesitates to involve itself in a local dispute involving Japan, despite efforts of the foregoing nature, our nation must have developed a defense capability which will enable it to respond to such situations on an independent basis.

During the Cold War period, the MSDF was able to limit itself to the building of a defense capability for Japan which functioned most efficiently on a joint basis with the U.S. 7th Fleet. In contrast, there is no need to mention that there has been no change whatsoever in the demand for maintenance of an optimum defense capability on a joint Japan-U.S. basis even in the post-Cold War period, but that alone is not adequate and Japan must establish a defense capability adequate for responding to local disputes independently in the event it is unable to secure U.S. support. Moreover, that defense capability in both qualitative and quantitative terms must not be of a nature that causes the United States to misconstrue Japan as assuming a position where it intends to abandon the alliance with the United States and proceed with an independent defense posture. In summary, we are talking about embracing a double-track policy wherein we secure U.S. acknowledgment of a joint Japan-U.S. defense system as well as an independent defensive posture.

Since I do not know the basis currently used by the MSDF as a defense concept in conducting its current review of the Defense Program Outline, I probably cannot avoid being criticized as being in error for debating the qualitative status of MSDF ships in the 21st century on the basis of the foregoing stated position, but I will hereby, nonetheless, venture to state my personal views.

First, in summary, MSDF ships fall into 22 categories beginning with destroyers and if destroyers are categorized in DD, DDH, and so on, there are 34 categories. Since it is very clear that I have not been allotted enough pages for this article to discuss each such category separately, I will limit this article to a discussion of destroyers and submarines, accompanied by a detailed discussion of these two categories as the need arises.

DDX Concept

All-purpose destroyers [DD] currently on active duty as standard organizational vessels include the "Hatsuyuki"-type (standard displacement 2,950 tons; 3,050 tons since the launching of the "Yamayuki") and the "Asagiri"-type (3,500 tons; 3,550 tons since the launching of the "Hamagiri"), while the "Murasame"-type (4,400 tons) is currently under construction.

In contrast, experimental destroyers [DDX] which will probably be launched at the beginning of the 21st century will not differ from such ships as the "Hatsuyuki"-type in terms of their position as standard organizational vessels of the MSDF fleet, but they will probably be converted into ships which satisfy the double-track policies mentioned earlier.

A characteristic of threats and situations conceivable for the 21st century include not only the concept of placing emphasis on responses required in the defense of sea lanes of communication [SLOC] of the past, but the need to consider a wide range of possibilities such as low intensity conflicts [LIC], saturation missile attacks, Theater Missile Defense [TMD], and anti-landing-invasion measures including island defense. Armaments which can satisfy such concepts of military response must be of a nature that are sufficiently responsive to all of the situations herein mentioned, and reflect a shift away from basics of the past concerning buildup of MSDF capabilities which gave highest priority to antisubmarine capabilities and considered maritime strike capabilities and anti-air capabilities as maritime and anti-air capabilities required to efficiently execute antisubmarine warfare.

That being the case, it is probably definite that DDX such as the test ship "Asuka" that will be placed on active duty in March of this year will be equipped with Fire Control System 3's and surface ship sonar (more than 40 meters of sonar including bow sonar and linear-array sonar installed on the flanks of the vessel). At the same time, as I have indicated in the past whenever the opportunity presented itself, there is a distinct need to proceed with the installation of 127-millimeter guns which have greater capability to respond to LIC or unexpected situations and greater surface strike capabilities than the 76-millimeter guns installed on current DD. Further, the current ship-based SH-60 helicopter can assist surface ships in observing ships beyond the horizon, but do not have the capability to independently attack surface targets. In the future, we must possess the capability to detect and destroy small, high-speed surface craft targeting our ship units before they attack in order to assure the safety of friendly ships in LIC and local disputes. Accordingly, as the need arises, vessels should be equipped with helicopters converted to handle dual antisubmarine, antisurface missions and capable of rapid conversion from antisubmarine to anti-small, high-speed surface-craft response tasks.

Most likely, the DDX will evolve into an all-purpose "Murasame"-type destroyer suitable for the previously mentioned double-track missions equipped with such refinements as a combat command system with enhanced capabilities such as improved durability, stealth qualities, and responsiveness.

Destroyer Concepts to Follow the DDX

Now, the question is, what shape will future destroyers assume after the DDX?

In the past and as an extension of the past, destroyers were designed primarily for antisubmarine missions, resulting in an imposed speed limit of about 30 knots while the need to respond to threats or situational changes evolving from rapidly changing combat situations will require high-speed ships which are not slowed by bad weather and response to severe combat situations will require additional enhancement of stealth qualities to cope with enemy radar, sonar, and ultraviolet radiation detection sensors.

Currently, destroyers are of the single hull displacement-type, but the MSDF has adopted new type ship bodies with high assessments for the sake of improving sea worthiness of auxiliary ships such as the acoustic survey ship "Hibiki."

Private-sector ferries and passenger ships are being built with small waterplane area twin hulls [SWATH] and surface effect ship [SES] hulls with the possibility that the future may see the use of such hulls throughout the world in the construction of naval ships.

SWATH craft are composed of lower hulls shaped like torpedoes submerged in the water, struts which support the upper structure, and a deck which links the left and right hulls. A SWATH craft of the same length as a standard single-hull displacement ship performs with extremely superior seaworthiness and favorable rates such as including bow fluctuations against head waves that are one-tenth of the latter, amplitude of side rocking against side waves that are one-sixth of the latter, and minimal slowing of speed in turbulent seas. These factors have already been substantiated during tests of the "Hibiki." Further, such technology has been introduced in the recent techno-super liners, providing for high assessments of their seaworthiness and capability to operate at high speeds. Additionally, the U.S. Navy's experimental stealth ship Sea Shadow is a SWATH vessel. It can said to be a candidate ship type for future destroyers.

SES is an Air Cushion Vehicle [ACV] with fixed side walls and providing for improved course keeping and lower floating power through the use of flexible seals to control forward and backward movements. It provides for minimal navigational resistance, large structural designs, high-speed operation in turbulent waters, low water displacement noises, and high resistance to shock from underwater explosions. The Defense Agency's Technical Research and Development Institute is using an experimental vessel to perform a variety of tests, while Sweden is performing evaluation tests on an SES-type stealth experimental vessel named "Smyge." It can said to be a candidate ship type for future destroyers along with SWATH vessels.

Detection prevention devices being emphasized include reduction technology for radar detection prevention devices, acoustic control technology, and ultraviolet radiation reduction technology. Among these technologies, progress is lagging the most in the area of ultraviolet radiation reduction technology.

Ultraviolet light radiation reduction technology involves the cooling , absorption and shut off of ultraviolet radiation rays. Missile-seeker measurement methods currently consist primarily of nonimage processing procedures which capture targets as dots or silhouettes, but in the future it is expected that there will be a shift to image processing procedures which distinguish vessel types. Currently, there are no effective measures to cope with ultraviolet sensors, and absorption and cut off of ultraviolet radiation is being handled by spraying sea water throughout the ship deck with deck watering systems with emphasis placed on cooling the area near smoke stacks (exhaust pipes) which are the largest source of ultraviolet radiation.

If a decision is made to adopt the SWATH style in the next-generation destroyer, the problem of reducing ultraviolet radiation will be resolved by locating the engine exhaust system below the ship's hull and at least attain a reduction of radiation from its largest source which are the exhaust pipes and the exhaust source at the engine as has been the case on the U.S. Navy's "Sea Shadow."

In the case of SES vessels, the bottom section of the hull is flanked and sealed, while the hull is lifted by an air cushion created by lift exhaust pipes at the bottom of the hull, thus posing the question of whether the ultraviolet radiation issue can be resolved, but common sense would indicate that it would probably be difficult to locate the engine exhaust system at the bottom of the hull.

In the case of the SES vessel, a separate solution must be found to resolve the ultraviolet radiation reduction issue.

Then, if one were to ask will either the SWATH or SES styles be adopted for the next-generation DDX, we would have to say that some doubt remains.

Former MSDF Technical Captain Shigeru Makino, who has been engaged in design work since the construction of the first domestic destroyer of the postwar era, in his book titled, "Shigeru Makino Naval Ship Notes" (published by Kyodosha), describes the proceedings at a meeting covering the change from the "Harukaze"-type parallel plate [FD] style to the "Ayanami"-type long forecastle [LF] style, and concludes by expressing his indignation in the words, "I never thought that it would be so difficult to introduce a new vessel style." A look at such circumstances indicates that unlike the improvements realized through the change from FD to LF styles, any radical change from single-hull-vessel style to SWAT II style or SES style will pose considerably complex difficulties unless the individual chosen as chairman of the Performance Deliberation Council is a technically highly qualified individual with superior mental acuity and decisionmaking capabilities. Even at this stage, we can appreciate the difficulties that such a chairman will have to face."

As for the DDG, it may be constructed as a new style vessel depending on the timing of its procurement, but it will probably be fitted with an improved, modified Aegis system capable of responding in a TMD situation.

As for the next-generation DDH (the DDH designation may be dropped in the future), we cannot think of its future responsiveness in terms of a projection of requirements concerning past responsiveness. I will be repeating myself, but the reason is that we must shift from the Japan-U.S. joint response criteria used in the Cold War era to a criteria calling for the additional requirement of an independent response. Even if that is the case, we will not immediately assume possession of carrier vessels [CV] as is the case with the U.S. Navy, and it may not become and we must not assume a posture in which we forego possession of conventional takeoff and landing [CTOL] aircraft carriers because of political restrictions or opt to limit ourselves to the possession of vertical and short takeoff and landing [V/STOL] aircraft carriers which provide inadequate capabilities.

It is self-evident that it would be senseless to not possess interceptor capabilities equal to the attack capabilities of the opposing forces during high seas operations when Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] fighter support cannot be expected for the air defense of a deployed naval unit.

Capabilities required of ship-based aircraft include early warning, targeting, electronic interference, ship attack, and interception. That being the case, there is a need to possess the same capabilities as the CV of the U.S. Navy. If possession of CV's is considered impossible because of political restrictions, we can depart from past concepts and consider a separate system. If an out-of-range attack on an opposing aircraft can be made and a missile is developed with superior tracking capabilities, is capable of piercing the opponent's interference, possesses maneuverability outshining the opponent, and is capable of rendering the opposing aircraft incapable of evading attack, the aircraft used for delivery need not be a high-performance fighter plane, enabling a turboprop plane to adequately fulfill the task. Maintenance of similar airborne early warning [AEW] craft, electronic interference aircraft, and anti-ship attack planes would provide for possession of aircraft carriers without "power projection" capabilities posing a threat to neighboring nations.

As long as our nation's defense policies are not fundamentally altered in the 21st century, possession of practical MSDF fleet defense capabilities will require that planning for next-generation DDH (naval ship fitted with aircraft) consider concepts of the foregoing nature.

Changes in Submarine Procurement Concepts

MSDF submarine procurement concepts, when the fleet was initially established, visualized the maintenance of small submarines for local defense, and even in the case of attack-unit capabilities, visualized submarines which could be used for patrol and reconnaissance and which were large and multipurpose submarines with the capability to attack other submarines and surface ships. In peacetime these submarines served as a multipurpose target vessel and personnel training vessel.

The Second Defense Buildup Program considered MSDF's experience with the "Hayashio"-type submarine (750 tons) and with the "Kuroshio" on loan from the United States, and as a result of extensive debate, a decision was made to proceed with a single large, multipurpose submarine. The reason was that the requirement to fulfill a wide range of missions such as the need to provide high-performance training targets for surface ships and aircraft, to continuously and uneventfully perform surveillance missions from peacetime to times of emergencies, and to engage in patrol, vessel destruction, and mine laying during emergencies with a ceiling of 16 ships offered no choice but to proceed with a single type of multipurpose submarine.

If we consider the fact that the end of the Cold War era has seen the proliferation of countries possessing surface ships and high-performance submarines, expansion of maritime defense zones, and operation of submarines in shallow seas where evasion measures using deep waters is not feasible, we should probably adopt a premise which calls for revision of submarine units, modify our submarine procurement policy which limits the program to large, multipurpose submarines, and procure submarines of two basically different types; i.e., high-performance large, multipurpose submarines and small submarines suitable for operation in shallow waters.

Expectations Placed on AIP Submarines

In comparison to nuclear submarines known as "True Submarines," conventional submarines contain the disadvantage of increasing the opportunities for detection by the need to surface snorkel masts for the purpose of charging batteries which provide energy for propulsion, by noise emitted from diesel engines, and by heat emitted from exhaust systems. Accordingly, we can say that it is essential to adopt a hybrid system consisting of (main storage battery plus AIP [air independent propulsion]) on conventional submarines using intermittently protruding snorkel systems as a means to evade detection.

Currently, the Technical Research and Development Institute is testing a Sterling engine and peripheral components, purchased from Sweden, with a view to making improvements. If a Sterling engine is installed on the 2,700-ton submarine currently under construction, gross weight will probably increase to around 3,000 tons. When actually installed, each unit will generate 75 kilowatts, while four units will generate 300 kilowatts, providing for several knots of speed for a 3,000-ton submarine, enough to be used while in a relative stable enemy-search position, but probably no potential for use during forward movement operations not to mention attack and evasion maneuvers. If somewhat of a drastic description can be made, we are speaking not of a next-generation AIP submarine in the 2,700-ton type, but an interim submarine of a transitory, semi-AIP nature.

During the transition from the Third to Fourth Defense Buildup Program, the MSDF contracted with the Technical Research and Development Institute to develop a fuel cell (main storage battery plus fuel cell), and planned for the construction of an AIP submarine, but abandoned the project for various reasons at the stage where it had built a land-based mock-up set.

Japan: Building Early Warning System With U.S. 'Essential'

OW0702141696 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 5 Feb 96 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] As of 4 February, the Defense Agency [DA] started taking concrete steps toward obtaining "alert information" via U.S. geostationary satellites in consideration of the possible need to intercept the DPRK's Nodong-1 and other ballistic missiles. Since the possibility of abrupt DPRK military moves cannot be ruled out, and Japan would have difficulty in acting on its own to detect the launching of missiles and responding promptly, the DA has determined that it is essential for the country to build an early warning system in cooperation with the United States.

In regard to responding to possible ballistic missile strikes, the only way that Japan, at the moment, can confirm incoming missiles is through some 20 Air Self-Defense Force [ASDF] radar sites located throughout the country. What poses a problem for Japan is the DPRK's Nodong-1, a ballistic missile with a maximum range of 1,000 kilometers and the capability of delivering nuclear strikes. This missile places western Japan within striking range and can reportedly reach there in seven to 10 minutes. Moreover, the Nodong-1 cruises at very high altitudes well above the stratosphere (which extends to an altitude of 80 kilometers) and plunges very rapidly back toward the earth at speeds approaching Mach-10 after reentering the stratosphere.

However, the ASDF radar installations do not have the capability to detect missiles launched from the Korean peninsula nor track objects travelling in a parabolic path above the stratosphere. Therefore,it has been pointed out in the past that Japan's inability to respond promptly would pose a problem. Moreover, even though the ASDF has deployed the "Patriot PAC-2 Level" system, a missile intercepting system the United States used during the Gulf war, it has been observed that "shooting down a Nodong would be difficult" (according to a government source).

However, so far the government has rejected informal U.S. requests for mutual cooperation because "merely receiving information would only lead to confusion if the missiles could not be intercepted, and cooperating with the United States could arouse concerns in the PRC and other countries" (according to a DA source).

However, late last year, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry made comments in reference to the DPRK situation. Among other remarks, Perry said: "It has become more urgent to keep the DPRK under closer surveillance." In this way, some officials have indicated that the possibility of a public uproar within the DPRK and abrupt military moves against the ROK as a result of its critical food shortage cannot be ruled out. Thus, the DA has firmed up its intention to embark on cooperation with the United States. The agency has also proceeded with making necessary arrangements in this direction. For example, it included the passage "to conduct warning and surveillance on a continuous basis to detect any changes in circumstances as soon as possible, so as to utilize this information for quick decisionmaking" in the National Defense Program Outline, which was approved by the cabinet last November.

The new system will operate in the following manner. When a ballistic missile is launched, it will be detected by infrared sensors aboard a U.S. early warning satellite in geostationary orbit above the equator. In about one minute, computers will analyze the data and determine whether the activity detected by the satellite's sensors is infrared radiation generated by a missile launch or volcanic activity or some other form of large-scale explosion. If it is determined that a missile has been launched, the missile's trajectory will be analyzed. The DA's Central Command in Minato-ku, Tokyo will then be automatically notified as to where in Japan the missile is expected to hit. In this way, Japanese Defense Forces will be able to prepare to intercept the missile in only a few minutes after it has been launched.

The DA has also been studying the possibility of obtaining extremely high-resolution images taken by a commercial U.S. earth observation satellite. However, this satellite will not be launched until 1997 at the earliest. Therefore, as part of its cooperative efforts with the United States, the DA tentatively plans to continue research on, among other projects, the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system, which is capable of intercepting the Nodong.

Japan: Kubo Urges Government To 'Consider' MOF Reform

OW1302041996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0313 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 13 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said Tuesday [13 February] the government should consider the organizational reform of the Finance Ministry [MOF] as part of its efforts to reorganize the overall administrative system.

"It is time for the government to overhaul the structure of the overall administrative system, and issues concerning the Finance Ministry should be considered thoroughly in the process," Kubo said at a press conference.

"It is necessary for the ruling coalition parties to have a unified view on how to proceed with the reorganization of the administrative system," Kubo said.

Calls for shaking up the Finance Ministry have mounted following a series of scandals involving former ministry officials and the ministry's slow response to the bad loan problem of failed housing loan companies.

Koichi Kato, secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party, the biggest of the three parties in the governing coalition, has said it is necessary to create a new financial industry watchdog which will cover not only banks now supervised by the Finance Ministry but other financial institutions not so supervised.

Kubo said, "Kato's proposal is one option."

Referring to the National Tax Administration Agency's reported investigation into real estate companies which owe huge amounts of money to the mortgage companies, Kubo said the agency will take strict measures if they prove necessary.

Kubo said it is necessary for banks to listen humbly to public criticism that their workers are paid too much at a time when the debt-ridden mortgage companies founded by them are due to be liquidated with taxpayers' money.

"Banks ought to correct what should be corrected," he said.

Kubo also said it is important for the ministry to draw a conclusion on how to correct the much-criticized "amakudari" practice of retired senior ministry officials landing in plum jobs in the private sector.

"It is necessary for the regulatory agency and the finance industry to keep an appropriate distance and maintain a tense relationship," he said.

"Amakudari" or "descent from heaven" is when former senior officials of government ministries and agencies take important posts in private companies and government-related organizations.

Many former Finance Ministry officials held top posts in the mortgage companies when the housing loan firms were piling up huge amounts of what turned out to be uncollectable loans.

Japan: LDP Appeals for Keidanren's Support in General Election

OW1402054996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 KYODO — The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)'s senior official appealed Wednesday [14 February] to an influential business group for its strong support in the next general election.

Hiromu Nonaka, acting secretary general of the LDP, the dominant partner in the ruling coalition, made the appeal in his speech at a meeting sponsored by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren).

The next lower house election, which will be held under a new type of electoral system combining single-seat constituencies and proportional representation, need not take place until 1997, but speculation has grown that it could be called later this year.

"The single-member constituency system is not as easy (for the LDP) as you may think," Nonaka said.

"We survived elections under the medium-sized electoral district system...But the next one could be dreadful. Win or lose...Politicians are at bay," he said.

On possible reforms of the Finance Ministry in the wake of several serious financial scandals in Japan, Nonaka pointed to the need for transferring powers it now holds, saying, "the ministry's mandarins are obsessed with the idea that they are controlling the nation by taking charge of its finances. This has a very bad effect."

Wednesday's gathering, the third of this kind, was organized to help restore Keidanren's influence on politics, which has declined since the group ceased acting as a channel for corporate donations to political parties.

Japan: Safety Officials Blame Metal Fatigue for Reactor Leak

OW1402090096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokai, Japan, Feb. 14 KYODO — Metal fatigue in a broken temperature sensor was the original cause of a leak which forced the closure in December of Japan's prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor, known as "Monju," officials of the Nuclear Safety Commission said Wednesday [14 February].

The officials, members of a commission working group, said they diagnosed melal fatigue after examining the broken sensor at the government-run Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute's laboratory in Tokai, Ibaraki Prefecture, after its removal from the reactor Feb. 9.

The governmental Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. shut down Monju, some 350 kilometers west of Tokyo in Tsuruga, Fukui Prefecture, on Dec. 8 after nonradioactive liquid sodium leaked from the secondary cooling system.

The leak occurred at the point where the sensor was inserted into the sodium piping.

The broken sensor displayed the classic symptoms of metal fatigue, the officials said.

They said that after close examination of the surface of the break, they concluded it was due to fatigue-related stress from continued high-frequency rapid vibrations.

It appeared the rate of oscillation of the sensor brought on by the flow of sodium in the piping may have matched the rate for the casing around the sensor, heightening the strain on the instrument, they said.

Monju began operating last August and was scheduled eventually to generate 280 megawatts of electricity in June this year.

North Korea

DPRK on Murder of Korean Woman by U.S. Soldier in ROK

SK1402085996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0853 GMT 14 Feb 96

["Thrice-Cursed U.S. Atrocity in S. Korea" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — A soldier of the U.S. forces occupying South Korea mercilessly beat to death an innocent South Korean woman in Socho-tong, Seoul, some time ago.

Commenting on this thrice-cursed atrocity, an analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

It is not the first instance of murderous atrocities committed by the U.S. troops in South Korea.

The U.S. troops, trained with an extreme human-hating idea and armed with the spirit of beasts to the marrow of their bones, have shot, clubbed to death and run over innocent inhabitants across South Korea for more than half a century. On top of it, they have openly raided private houses in broad daylight, set [words indistinct] them and raped women at random. An instance of such brutal atrocities is the case of a woman surnamed Kang who was beaten to death by a U.S. soldier in cold blood.

The point at issue is that the criminal atrocities of the U.S. troops have markedly increased in number after the Kim Yong-sam group took office.

The Kim Yong-sam group, who have a pro-American idea and flunkeyism as their physiological characteristics, have provided the occupiers with extraterritorial rights and have taken no measure to prevent the crimes of the U.S. troops. Worse still, they have made no protest against the atrocities of the U.S. troops who killed South Korean people, raped women, raided private houses and robbed them of their property. On the contrary, the South Korean puppets have unhesitatingly committed treacherous acts by fettering students and people who punished the criminals of the U.S. troops and exposed their brutalities to public circles.

The conclusion is clear. As long as the U.S. colonial enslavement policy toward South Korea continues and the pro-American Kim Yong-sam group of traitors and flunkeyists remain in power, the South Korean people cannot live in peace even a moment nor can they escape such a miserable doom as that of a woman surnamed Kang.

DPRK on ROK Students' 'Struggle Against Kim Yong-sam'

SK1302135696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 13 Feb 96

["NODONG SINMUN Supports South Korean Students' Struggle Against Kim Yong-sam" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today comments on the recent anti-"government" struggle of South Korean students. This is a flame heralding the start of the massive resistance against the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique and fully reflects the enraged people's sentiments, says the paper in a commentary.

The analyst goes on:

The South Korean students came out to the valiant struggle with the slogan "Down With Kim Yong-sam". This is a very just struggle which reflects the unanimous will of the South Korean people to overthrow the traitorous regime and bring earlier an independent, democratic and reunified, new society.

The South Korean people are hardening their intention to inflict a disgraceful defeat on the Kim Yong-sam group in the forthcoming "parliamentary elections" as they did in the "local autonomous body elections". This is a clear proof that the South Korean students and people invariably regard the traitor Kim Yong-sam as the first target of struggle, not being duped by or yielding to the allurement, deception and fascist sword-brandishing of the puppets.

The South Korean students will burn the Kim Yong-sam group to death by adding fuel to the flame of struggle they have already kindled as the standard-bearers of the struggle against Kim Yong-sam and the "New Korea Party".

DPRK: CILRECO Executive Committee Holds Meeting in Paris

SK1302132596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0948 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — A meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO) was held in Paris on February 4.

The meeting reviewed what CILRECO did last year to ensure peace and security in the Korean Peninsula and promote Korean reunification and discussed measures to further intensify the international solidarity movement for peace and great national unity in Korea.

Former Portuguese President Francisco da Costa Gomes, who is also honorary chairman of CILRECO, said in his opening address that it is realistic way for Korean reunification to reunify the country through confederation and that CILRECO will further strengthen the international solidarity movement supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

A message of greetings the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea sent to the meeting was introduced at the meeting.

CILRECO Secretary General Guy Dupre delivered a report titled "Let Us Invigorate the International Solidarity Movement Supporting the Korean People's Just Cause."

Speeches were made at the meeting.

President of the France-Korea Friendship Association Jean Suret-Canale said that, with a view to contributing to providing favorable conditions for Korean reunification, CILRECO must conduct activities to thwart the anti-national, anti-reunification moves of the United States and the South Korean authorities and urge the South Korean authorities to eliminate the "National Security Law" and the concrete wall, which are standing in the way of the great unity of the Korean nation.

Honorary chairman of the World Peace Council Romesh Chandra said the confederation formula put forward by the Great President Kim Il-song is the most reasonable and realistic reunification programme. He suggested that CILRECO set this [illegible] a year of international solidarity for peace and great national unity in Korea and carry on the solidarity movement in various forms.

Labor member of the House of Commons of Britain Robert Parry said the establishment of a new peace mechanism by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States is essential for ensuring peace and security in the Korean Peninsula and reunifying Korea on the basis of great national unity. He called on CILRECO to make greater efforts to this end.

Labor Member of Parliament of Malta Joe Debono Grech said it is necessary for CILRECO to make the world people know that the allegation of the United States and the South Korean authorities about "threat from North Korea" is just a pretext for invading the North of Korea and is also a trick to find a way out of their crisis and keep the South Korean people from tending towards the North.

Roberto Gabriele, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy, said CILRECO will actively support the Korean people in their struggle by invigorating the international solidarity movement with main stress put on the efforts to prevent a war and ensure peace and great national unity in the Korean Peninsula.

A letter to the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Also adopted were an appeal declaring 1996 as a "Year of International Solidarity for Peace and Great National Unity in Korea" and the 1996 action program of CILRECO.

DPRK: CILRECO Adopts 1996 Action Program, Admonishes U.S.

SK1302132996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0940 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — The 1996 action program was adopted at a meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO) held in Paris on February 4.

According to it, the meeting decided to make 1996 a "year of international solidarity for peace and great national unity in Korea" to carry on the international solidarity movement and activities for building up public opinion among world peaceloving forces and peoples supporting the Korean people.

CILRECO called on regional and national committees, organizations for friendship and solidarity with the Korean people and progressive peaceloving forces in the world to invigorate the solidarity movement in 1996 with main stress put on the three issues — firstly, urging the United States to come out to DPRK-U.S. negotiations for the establishment of a new peace mechanism in the Korean Peninsula, secondly, strengthening solidarity for Korean reunification through confederation and, thirdly, increasing international support and solidarity for the South Korean people in their struggle for independence, democracy and reunification.

The action program called on the world peaceloving forces and peoples to whip up the atmosphere of international solidarity by every conceivable means and method in 1996 to urge an honest implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement and ensure a guarantee of a lasting peace in the Korean Peninsula.

For this purpose, it is necessary to demand that a final solution to the nuclear issue in the peninsula be found, this region be turned into a nuclear-free and peace zone, the U.S. and the South Korean authorities stop all the military threat and provocations against the DPRK and the U.S. withdraw its troops and military equipment from South Korea, the action program said.

It noted that CILRECO will, this year, too, invigorate solidarity activities to build up public opinion supporting the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and make the international community actively respond to them.

According to the program, steps will be taken to further strengthen the international solidarity movement on the occasion of the anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising (May 17), the month of international solidarity with the Korean people (June 25-July 27), the day of Korean liberation (August 15), the anniversary of the DPRK (September 9), the month of support to the DCRK founding proposal (October), the United Nations General Assembly session and other main events.

CILRECO will further activate the international solidarity movement before the Fifth World Conference for Support to Korean Reunification to be held in 1997, 20 years since the founding of CILRECO.

In order to remove obstacles to Korean reunification based on confederation as early as possible, it will urge the U.S. to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Korean nation, will denounce anti-national, anti-reunification policies pursued by the South Korean authorities and will demand they immediately scrap the "National Security Law" and pull down the concrete wall, the program said, and added:

CILRECO will invite broad masses of the working people to take active part in activities supporting Korean reunification, in close relations with trade unions of countries and regional and international organizations of trade unions which are supporting Korean reunification and the South Korean workers' struggle.

DPRK: CILRECO Urges U.S. To Adopt New Peace Mechanism

SK1302131196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0932 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — We call on all the governments, political parties, parliaments, social organizations, international organizations and peaceloving people across the world to actively join the efforts for making 1996, the first year of the second half of the 1990s, a "year of international solidarity for peace and great national unity in Korea" and conduct the movement.

This call was made by an appeal adopted at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO) held in Paris on February 4.

The appeal said:

We strongly urge the United States, which is a signatory to the armistice agreement and its wrecker and which holds the military operational control in South Korea, to accept the proposal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the replacement of the old armistice system with a new peace mechanism, considering that it has no reason and pretext to reject the proposal.

We strongly demand that the South Korean authorities, who neither are a signatory to the armistice agreement nor have the military operational control, refrain from obstructing the establishment of a new peace mechanism by the DPRK and the U.S. because they have no qualification to interfere in the issue.

We consider that with the Korean armistice agreement left without any real meaning due to the unjustifiable moves of the U.S., it cannot prevent a war in the Korean Peninsula but heavily damage the peace and security of the world. We urge the U.S. and the South Korean authorities to promptly stop arms buildup and all military exercises.

We believe that as the Great Leader President Kim Il-song put forward the most just reunification programme and His Excellency Kim Chong-il, the great leader, is wisely leading the nationwide struggle for the country's reunification, peace and great national unity will surely be ensured in Korea.

DPRK: CILRECO Report Endorses Reunification Through Confederation

SK1302223796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO), made a report on the subject "Let Us Invigorate the International Solidarity Movement Supporting the Korean People's Just Cause" at a meeting of the Executive Committee of CILRECO held in Paris on February 4.

The report pointed to the change of the situation of the Korean Peninsula and the process of the international solidarity movement for supporting Korea's reunification.

CILRECO conducted the international solidarity movement last year in order to put an end to the tragic division imposed upon the Korean people contrary to their intention, the people's right to self-determination and the universal principles of the UN Charter on maintaining world peace, on the occasion of the 50th anniversaries of the Korean liberation and the United Nations.

Its action program was to convince broad public circles of the world that the cause of Korea's reunification is just and can certainly be achieved thanks to the three principles of national reunification, the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, which were put forward by the respected President Kim Il-song.

It was also for the peaceloving forces all over the world to wage broad activities for building up public opinion calling for a sincere implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and the establishment of a new peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula and thereby, invigorate the international solidarity movement for supporting the reunification and peace of Korea.

According to data available, more than 200 initiatives and measures were made in over 160 countries from July to November 1995. Korea's reunification through confederacy was supported by heads of state and government and officials of political parties and public organisations of more than 100 countries in the course of the solidarity movement for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

The report referred to the matters in establishing a new peace mechanism to terminate the dangerous confrontation policy existing in the Korean Peninsula.

The report continued:

It can never be accepted that the United States is keeping its troops under the helmet of the "UN Forces" in South Korea on the pretext of the 1950s' UN "resolution", turning its back on the 1975 resolution of the UN General Assembly.

The Korean Armistice Agreement should be replaced by a peace one to guarantee a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula and ensure security in Korea, Asia and the rest of the world in the present situation.

We express the expectation and belief that the political parties and public organisations of all countries of the world supporting the reunification of Korea together with CILRECO will deeply acquaint the broad masses in their countries with the importance and significance of the questions of the reunification of Korea and peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and thus make them wage a campaign to jointly put pressure on the United States to respond to the DPRK-U.S. negotiations for the establishment of the new peace mechanism.

The report said Korea should be reunified independently and peacefully through confederacy.

It went on:

President Kim Il-song, basing himself on a concrete analysis of the realities of divided Korea, indicated the proposal for national reunification through confederacy in the spirit of complete independence and great national unity, transcending the differences in ideology and system. This is his historic exploit.

The report raised the following questions for strengthening the international solidarity movement to contribute to an early realisation of Korea's reunification:

CILRECO proposes to proclaim 1996 as "a year of international solidarity for peace and great national unity in Korea".

In order to attain this year's action goal, we should, firstly, concentrate our efforts on bringing home to the broad international public circles the importance of ensuring a durable peace on the Korean Peninsula and building up public opinion in favor of it.

Secondly, we should broadly introduce and propagandize the ten- point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, evoke the support and solidarity of the broad masses for the proposal for reunification through confederacy and make governments and parliaments of many countries and international organisations lift up voices calling for an early realisation of Korea's reunification.

We should invigorate the activities for building up public opinion and international solidarity movement to support Korea's reunification in 1996, the first year of the latter half of the 90s, and make this a year of significance in preparing the fifth world conference for support to Korean reunification which will be convened in 1997.

DPRK: 'Diversification of Ownership' Destroys Socialist Economy

962C0012B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 1 Oct 95 p6

[Article by Kim Chu-kyong: "'Diversification of Ownership' Is a Counterrevolutionary Maneuver to Revert to Capitalism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, in his immortal classic work "Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is an Indispensable Requirement for the Attainment of the Socialist Cause," fully exposed the counterrevolutionary maneuvers of socialism's betrayers, who, advocating "diversification of ownership," destroyed the socialist economic system based on socialist ownership and revived capitalism.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"Opportunists and socialism's betrayers abandoned ideological work in their socialist society and brought in the capitalist method of moving people with money to promote individualism and egoism and spread the money-is-everything bourgeois ideology among people. They sided with reactionary bourgeois propaganda raving about 'efficiency' and 'superiority' of the capitalist market economy, advocating 'diversification of ownership.' By doing so, they destroyed the socialist economy built on socialist ownership at the root and branch."

Socialist society is a society based on collectivism. As such, it stands on the basis of socialist ownership, which is fundamentally ownership by all the people materially and economically. Consolidating and developing socialist ownership relations, consistent with the collectivist features of the socialist society, constitutes a fundamental requirement in holding fast to the socialist ideology and advancing the socialist cause successfully. If socialist ownership should be infringed on in the socialist society and capitalist ownership revived, the socialist society will be shaken to the very foundation of its existence, eventually giving way to the inevitable comeback of capitalism.

"Diversification of ownership," of which socialism's betrayers raved about so clamorously, has worked—with its reactionary influence—to spread the money-is-everything bourgeois ideology among people and destroy the material and economic foundations of the socialist society based on collectivism.

"Diversification of ownership" creates conditions conducive to the spread of individualism and egoism and bourgeois ideologies as it brings in capitalist ownership into the socialist society. As realities in countries where capitalism has revived show, it is inevitable that private ownership gives rise to individualism and that capitalist ownership and the capitalist market economy lead to the emergence and spread of bourgeois ideologies.

Private ownership inevitably leads to relations characterized by capitalist exploitation. "Diversification of ownership" reinstates capitalist ownership in the socialist society, in disregard of the intrinsic difference between socialism and capitalism, which only leads to the destruction of the socialist economic system based on socialist ownership, and to the revival of capitalism.

Therein lies the reactionary nature of the maneuvers of socialism's betrayers who advocated "diversification of ownership" in former socialist nations.

Bourgeois reversionists are betrayers of socialism, who hold up capitalist market economy as their ideal. They are the culprits serving imperialists.

In the initial phase of "perestroika," they asserted that their proposed "diversification of ownership" would "consummate socialist production relations" and "diversify socialist-type ownership." It is designed to "bring more of socialism and better socialism," they said, using socialism as a cover veiling their counterrevolutionary, criminal acts. As "perestroika" made headway, however, the perpetrators of imperialists' anti-socialist strategy laid bare their ugly true colors as schemers to bring back capitalism.

Socialism's betrayers began by exaggerating a few shortcomings reported in socialist economic construction. They ranted about "efficiency" and "superiority" of the capitalist market economy, viciously denigrating the socialist economic system based on socialist ownership.

Economic successes are "impossible without change in ownership relations and the form of management," they said, adding that diversifying ownership and introducing new forms such as private ownership, stock, and lease is an indispensable requirement. Their purpose was to bring in capitalist ownership relations into the socialist society to tear up the state-controlled economic management system based on socialist ownership and adopt the market economy governed by the law of the jungle in its place.

In reference to the failed economic construction, they made distorted propaganda as if it had been caused by defects of the socialist economic system itself, instead of searching for the reasons in the failure to positively arouse people ideologically or to manage the socialist economy properly. Thus, they were bent from the beginning on spawning illusions among people about capitalism and creating conditions favorable for reviving capitalist ownership relations.

The former Soviet newspaper LITURNAYA GAZETTE, in its 18 July, 1990, edition, wrote that the reason capitalism could achieve rapid economic growth was that it relied on "advanced factors" such as stock. "The form of stock by no means belongs to private ownership," it quibbled. What it said was deceptive and inexcusable.

Even in the case of unregistered-type ownership (i.e., bundles of share certificates), it does not deny the existence itself of bearers of those certificates. In the United States in 1989, there were 58 individuals and families worth more than a billion dollars each. Where did their billions of dollars come from? Those billionaires control management of companies because they own more than 50 percent of the stock; using as capital the billions of dollars they amassed in the stock market, they earn huge profits.

What distinguished socialism from capitalism and put socialism onto the high new stage in the history of humanity was the superiority of socialism having obliterated the exploitation of man by man. However, socialism's betrayers, criticizing the socialist economic system and babbling about the "superiority" of the capitalist market economy, brought in capitalist ownership into the socialist society to allow the exploitation of man by man.

In fact, socialism's betrayers opened the way for capitalist ownership relations to thrive under the cloak of "diversification of ownership."

The former Soviet Union adopted a new "Law of Cooperatives" in May 1988 to provide the legal basis for organizing and operating capitalist enterprises in the Soviet Union. Although "cooperatives" were covered with the veils of "cooperative ownership" and "joint ownership," they were in fact a tool for those having made money by fraud and other criminal means to hire and exploit people. The "family and collective contract system," put in place in the agricultural production realm by the betrayers of socialism, weakened the ownership by all the people and the cooperative ownership in the former Soviet Union that constituted the foundations of the socialist rural economic system, causing the collapse of the system eventually.

As "perestroika" went on, socialism's betrayers, clamoring that "perestroika is impossible without private enterprises," went mad for reviving private ownership. Under their coercion, the draft CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] platform, adopted in February 1990, had this to say: "Economic reform is unthinkable without change in ownership relations. The CPSU demands diversification of ownership." Likewise, the CPSU Central Committee plenum in October 1990 adopted a decision on retaining some industries under state control but privatizing the remaining industrial sectors. In late 1990, the former Soviet Union formulated the so-called 500-Day Program for full-scale introduction of the capitalist market economy. Commenting, Japan's NHK [Japan Broadcasting Corporation] said that "in a nutshell, the program, it can be said, has turned the common sense in socialism completely upside down. In other words, it is saying that land and plants will be privatized and that enterprises will be reorganized into Western-style incorporations."

After all, socialism's betrayers, while advocating "diversification of ownership," spread bourgeois ideologies among people, destroyed the socialist economic system based on socialist ownership at the root and branch, and reinstated capitalism.

All facts clearly prove that in order to defend and develop socialism, we should hold fast to socialist ownership constituting the economic and material foundations of socialist ideology, and consolidate and develop socialist economic relations unceasingly.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il's Work on Young People Published in India

SK1402041196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0352 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's famous work "The Present Times and the Tasks Facing Young People" was brought out in booklet on February 3 by the Everest Publishing House of India on the occasion of his birthday.

The booklet says in preface:

The respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great son produced by the Korean nation, is the leader recognized by the world. He made immortal contributions to accomplishing the revolutionary cause of the working class by wisely leading the revolution and construction for over 30 years.

The supreme leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who fully personified the outstanding idea and theory, leadership ability and noble virtues of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is absolutely trusted by the Workers' Party, the Revolutionary Armed Forces and all the people of Korea for his warm love for and devoted service to people and his boundless loyalty to the cause of revolution and infinitely respected by the progressive people of the world.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the genius of idea and theory, wrote many famous works with his extraordinary wisdom and outstanding thinking and study, which are a beacon indicating the road of revolution and a powerful ideological and theoretical weapon firmly guaranteeing the victory of socialism.

The booklet was published in Hindu.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Teachers, Reseachers

SK1402041696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0349 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to teachers and researchers of Han Tok-su University of Light Industry and medical workers of the Medical Appliances Department of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital for their successful fulfillment of revolutionary tasks.

The teachers and researchers, through their intensified scientific researches, have successfully solved various scientific and technical problems to contribute to promoting the development of the nation's light industry and further improving the people's living standards, while the medical workers have manufactured medical appliances with their own efforts.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent thanks to medical workers of the Kangso District People's Hospital in Nampo municipality, Secretary of the Party Committee Yi Pong-mun and farmers of Kochon-ri, Pyongsong city, South Pyongan Province, and other officials and working people for good things they did for society and collective.

His thanks also went to those who participated in a national high-speed tunnelling competition of young miners and a national flash-news bulletin and visual agitation competition of youths, seven workers of the Kangso Garment Factory including Hwang Myong- sil, a member of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League, and to Pak Ok-hui, a worker of the Mangyongdae Chonsok Restaurant in Pyongyang for their great contribution to increasing the lead and zinc production at the Komdok Mining Complex last year.

DPRK: Provincial Secretary Lauds Kim Chong-il's Work

SK1002050496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0302 GMT 10 Feb 96

["Famous Work on Further Intensifying Party Work" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN February 9 carried an article contributed by Sok Kil-ho, chief secretary of the Saeppyol County Party Committee, North Hamgyong Province. The article was released 20 years after the publication of "On Some Tasks Facing Party Organizations", a famous work of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il (February 9, 1976).

The work elucidates in detail the important theoretical and practical matters arising in steadily enhancing the militant power and the leadership role of the party and powerfully pressing ahead with socialist construction, including the matter of giving the guidance of party organizations over the economic and administrative work in a more effective manner and the matter of improving the work method and work style of party officials.

The validity and vitality of the ideas and theories advanced in the work are proved clearly by the fact that the Workers' Party of Korea now is famous as a great revolutionary party full of an absolute loyalty to the leader and as an ever-victorious one which has taken its root deep among the popular masses and is dynamically promoting the revolution and construction by setting in motion the inexhaustible strength and wisdom of the masses, the article stresses.

The significance and vitality of the work, the article says, are that the work has helped effect a new turn in the party's guidance over the economic and administrative work as well as a big change in the method and style of the work of officials.

Through the struggle to carry into effect the ideas and theories in the work, the level of guidance of party organizations and officials at all levels over administrative and economic work has increased considerably and big achievements scored in socialist economic construction.

Solving all matters arising in administrative and economic work by giving precedence to the work with people, political work, has become a must for all of our party organizations and officials, the article says.

The WPK has launched a powerful work to make officials learn from the great leader President Kim Il-song's method of work and set forth the slogan "We Serve the People!", thus leading all officials to prepare themselves well to be true servants for the people.

Officials lend their ears to the voices of the masses and acquaint themselves with actual conditions of subordinate units before organizing and unfolding any work. The article says, adding: As a result, the relations of kinship between the party and the masses have been stronger than ever before and all of the lines and policies put forward by the WPK enjoy unquestioned support from the entire people and are successfully put into reality.

DPRK: CILRECO Adopts Letter to Kim Chong-il on Reunification

SK1302035696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0242 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — A letter to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at a meeting of the executive committee of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (Cilreco) held in Paris.

The letter says the participants in the meeting decided to declare 1996 as a "year of international solidarity for peace and great national unity in Korea" for the purpose of further intensifying the solidarity movement of the world people for the peace and reunification of Korea and adopted an appeal.

It also says that they voiced the belief that Korea will be reunified in line with the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, which were put forward by the respected President Kim Il-song. They were unanimous in stressing that the Korean people's just cause will surely be accomplished under the outstanding leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, it adds.

The letter wholeheartedly wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life.

A letter to him was adopted at a joint seminar on the chuche idea held in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and a message to him at an opening ceremony of the month of the celebration of his 54th birthday held in Lima, Peru.

The letter and message praise Comrade Kim Chong-il as an outstanding thinker, theoretician and leader, saying he has made a great contribution to developing and enriching the chuche idea with energetic ideological and theoretical activities.

They also express firm solidarity with the Korean people in the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Gifts to SYL Groups, Extramural Centers

SK1302035896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0244 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent modern entertainment facilities to central and provincial organizations of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League (SYL) and extramural centres for education of youth and children.

The gifts are associated with his noble wish and expectation that the militant function and role of the SYL organisations will be enhanced to meet the demand of the situation marking a new historic turning-point in the Korean youth movement and that the youth and school children will grow into comprehensively-developed, reliable successors to the chuche revolutionary cause.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Farsightedness 'Mysterious Yet Scientific'

SK1302224696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 13 Feb 96

["Kim Chong-il, Incarnation of Wisdom" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — Geneviere Clancy, professor of Paris University No. 1, said, "Today progressive people highly praise Comrade Kim Chong-il as the incarnation of wisdom and the sun indicating the way of the era of independence because he has an extraordinary penetration into the present complex political situation and a farsighted disposition."

His words reflect the unanimous feelings of the world progressive people today.

The far-sightedness of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is mysterious yet scientific.

He once said that though Cambodian King Sihanouk laid down his crown because of disturbance created in his country, he would come to the throne again in ten years. Referring to the Nonaligned Movement, he said the new-emerging force would expand to become the master of revolution. At the time of the "Pueblo" incident in 1968, he said that though the U.S. imperialists were threatening to bomb Wonsan, Korea, they would soon come out to Panmunjom for apology. These are a few examples of his correct predictions. The situation of the former Soviet Union changed as he had foretold.

One day in November, 1987, he told officials that the developments in the Soviet Union were symptoms of downfall, that the flag of socialism would be hoisted down and the wind of capitalism would blow and that the problem of nations in the Soviet Union, a multinational state, would be complex.

In June 1988, the Soviet Union proclaimed that the party leadership over the state would be given up. And the article that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is the force of leadership and guidance over society was cancelled in the Constitution, and the "muti-party system" was introduced.

In 1991 it was divided into over ten countries and disputes broke out here and there.

When the Persian Gulf war broke out in 1991, political, military and press circles in the world predicted that the war would be prolonged and might be expanded into a third world war. But only Comrade Kim Chong-il predicted that the war would soon be ended and not be expanded into a third world war but it would have influence upon the Korean Peninsula. He led the entire people and army to make full preparations.

In March 1993, a dangerous situation which may lead to a war far greater than the Gulf War any moment was created on the Korean Peninsula and the world attention focused on Korea.

In response to the March 8 order of the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, the whole country, the entire people and the whole army made full preparations, entered into a state of semi-war and keenly watched every act of the enemy.

On march 12, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea answered the new war provocation moves of the enemy with the bomb-like announcement of its withdrawal from the NPT [Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty].

The enemy was struck dumb by the matchless courage of Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has both literary and military accomplishments.

The military analysts of the West said, "Supreme Commander Kim Chong-il is characterized by correct judgement, decisive resolution and merciless blow."

DPRK: Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League Holds 8th Plenum

SK1302131296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0954 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — The 8th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Kim Il-song Socialist Youth League (SYL) was held here on Monday.

Discussed at the plenum was the question of strengthening the SYL into the Youth League of the great leaders President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il in reality as well as in name.

The plenum also discussed tasks of the youth organizations to thoroughly implement Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "Respecting the Forerunners of the Revolution Is a Noble Moral Obligation of Revolutionaries".

The plenum emphasized the need to make the 8 million young people and children rifles and bombs to defend the respected General Kim Chong-il with their lives and establish an iron discipline and order in the league so that it may move as one under the monolithic leadership of the general.

It also stressed that the young people and students must actively learn from the great traits of the general so that they may uphold the president for all ages and firmly believe that he will always be with them.

DPRK: High-Ranking Officials Attend National Birthday Seminar

SK1402085296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0848 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — A national seminar was held here on Tuesday [13 February] to mark the 54th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The seminar was attended by Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Workers' Party of Korea Central Committee and vice-president, and other high-ranking officials of the party and the state.

The seminar specified Comrade Kim Chong-il as a most outstanding leader of real worth in the present-day era, who has been leading the cause of independence for the masses to victory with his superb leadership ability.

The speakers at the seminar said he has scored undying exploits that will shine for centuries, by guiding the revolutionary cause of chuche to victory in the van of the party and the revolution for more than 30 years.

They pointed out that the greatness of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is represented by his brilliant wisdom with which he brightly indicates the road ahead of the times and the revolution all the time and by his distinguished leadership ability with which he smoothly leads the masses of the people only along the ever-victorious road in any storm and stress.

His outstanding ability is the source of all miracles and rapid progress effected now in Korea, an inexhaustible motive power that enables the Korean revolution to advance only to victory and an invincible guarantee that instills the people of Korea with courage and conviction of the victory of revolution, they noted.

The speakers touched on the undying ideological and theoretical achievements he has made with unparalleled wisdom and superb clairvoyance.

They explained that he has, for the first time in history, defined loyalty to the leader as the highest representation of revolutionary obligation and carried it into practice, so that a new view of communist morality based on revolutionary outlook on the leader has been established and morality elevated to the question of the outlook on the world.

They also said that the respected supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is gifted with superb military strategy and commanding art, is a rare brilliant commander leading the People's Army to be invincible.

The speakers underlined that all officials should always keep alive the imperishable achievements he has scored for the times and the revolution, defend him at the cost of life and further consolidate the singlehearted unity.

DPRK: PRC Residents in DPRK Celebrate Kim Chong-il's Birthday

SK1402085596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0827 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Association of Chinese Residents in Korea hosted a party in Pyongyang on February 13 on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Present on invitation were Sin An-pang, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee, and officials concerned.

Present were officials of the Central Committee of the association including its Vice-Chairman Fan Yun-feng, Chinese residents in Pyongyang and the minister-councillor and officials of the Chinese Embassy here.

Speeches were made at the party.

DPRK Officials Attend Birthday Reception at Cuban Embassy

SK1402084496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0839 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Charge d'Affaires ad Interim of the Cuban Embassy here Pedro Moran Tapanes [spelling of name as received] gave a reception on Tuesday [13 February] on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Vice-President of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok, Minister of the People's Armed Forces Choe Kwang and Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, who are Politburo members of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other officials concerned were present on invitation.

Pedro Moran Tapanes in his speech said that the Cuban people are celebrating together with the people the world over the 54th birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has the same idea, noble virtues, distinguished merit and leadership ability as the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

Comrade Kim Chong-il is precisely Comrade Kim Il-song, the speaker said, and noted:

All the people of Korea and Cuba and the people all over the world cherish deep trust in Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Korean and Cuban peoples, who are struggling for the common aim and interests, are standing in one ideological trench and enjoying eternal friendship which was forged by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and Comrade Kim Il-song, the supreme leaders, and which is brought into fuller bloom by Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Speaking at the reception, Kim Yong-nam said that the birth of the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il was a great festive event which meant the birth of a peerless great man who would successfully carry forward and accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche, and a historic event in which a bright future opened before Korea of chuche.

He went on to say:

We will in the future, too, strive to further expand and develop the fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation with the Cuban people, upholding the behests of Comrade Kim Il-song and the noble intention of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The Korean people extend invariable support and firm solidarity to the Cuban people in their struggle to smash the U.S. imperialists' blockade against Cuba and tide over the difficulties of the "special period of peace time" under the correct leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution.

DPRK: Film Shows Mark Kim Chong-il's Birthday

SK1302050296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0413 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — The Ministry of the People's Armed Forces gave a film show on Monday on the occasion of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Invited to the film show were military attaches of different embassies here.

The Pyongyang Municipal Administrative and Economic Committee gave a film show on the same day to mark the occasion.

Officials of the Central Committee of the Association of the Chinese Residents in Korea and Chinese Residents in Pyongyang were invited there.

The participants saw Korean documentary films.

DPRK: Palestinian Envoy Reception on Birthday of Kim Chong-il

SK1302052196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — Palestinian Ambassador E. P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea Shahir Mohammed gave a reception on Monday on the threshold of the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Speaking at the reception, Shahir Mohammed said Comrade Kim Chong-il's birthday is a glorious day not only in the history of the Korean nation but also for the world people desirous of justice, peace and freedom and, in particular, is a most significant holiday for the Palestinian Arab people.

"As the supreme leader of the friendly Workers' Party, the state and the Army of Korea, the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is wisely leading the party and the people to make great victory and progress despite all trials and difficulties," he said.

"We will uphold the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song forever and remain loyal to Comrade Kim Chong-il," he stressed, adding that the people and leadership of Palestine are fully supporting all reunification proposals made by Korea.

He voiced belief that Korea's reunification will be achieved at an early date.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, said the Palestinian people have long waged a vigorous struggle to completely retake the lost territory and national rights under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) headed by respected President Comrade Yasir 'Arafat.

"Supporting the Palestinian people's cause for liberation is a behest of Comrade Kim Il-song and the invariable will of the Workers' Party of Korea as well," he said, noting, "the Korean people will always stand by the people of Palestine in their efforts to build their state with Kuds as the capital on their motherland."

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Birthday Basket From Yasir Arafat

SK1402094496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0919 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a floral basket from Yasir Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, on his birthday.

It was handed to an official concerned by Palestinian Ambassador E.P. [Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary] to Korea Shahir Muhammad [spelling of name as received] today.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Birthday Message From Boris Yeltsin

SK1202140596 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, received a congratulatory message from Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of his birthday.

The congratulatory message reads as follows:

Pyongyang.

To His Excellency Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army:

On the occasion of 16 February, a DPRK national holiday, I send my congratulations to you, and hope you will be healthy and achieve results.

I am of the firm belief that the good neighborly and cooperative relations between our two countries will develop anew in conformity with the interest of our peoples' welfare, as well as the interests of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

[Signed] Yeltsin

[Dated] 8 February 1996, Moscow, Kremlin

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Birthday Basket From Libya's Qadhdhafi

SK1402092896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0920 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a floral basket from Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September First Revolution of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on his birthday.

It was handed to an official concerned by Ramadan Muhammad el- Laubi [spelling of name as received], acting secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau of Libya in Pyongyang, today.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Receives Birthday Basket From CPC Central Committee

SK1402093396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0928 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a floral basket from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China [CPC] on the occasion of his birthday.

The floral basket was conveyed on February 14 to Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, by Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese ambassador E.P. [Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary] to Korea.

On the occasion the ambassador said that upon the authorisation, he had the honour of conveying the floral basket to the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il from the CPC Central Committee and the cordial greetings and warm congratulations to him from Jiang Zemin, Deng Xiaoping, Li Peng, Qiao Shi, Li Ruihuan and other central leading officials.

He said that the respected Comrade Kim Chong-il has paid deep attention to the Sino-Korean friendly relations. "We are convinced that this friendship will be further consolidated and developed thanks to the warm care of the leaders of the two countries and joint efforts of the two peoples," he stressed.

DPRK: Foreign Delegations Lay Flowers at Kim Il-song Statue

SK1102075696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0634 GMT 11 Feb 96

[Spelling of all names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Ukrainian Communist Party led by First Secretary of its Central Committee P.N. Symonenko, general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru Tani Baler Lopera and his companion, a delegation of the National Assembly party of Jordan led by Deputy General Secretary Wadie A. al-Sayegh, a delegation of the October 8 Revolutionary Movement of Brazil led by Deputy Secretary General of its Central Committee Sergio Rubens and a delegation of the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation led by First Secretary of the Krasnoyarsk City Party Committee Yu. S. Puzintsev on Saturday laid floral baskets and bouquets before the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill and bowed to him.

A delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions led by Vice-Chairman Yang Xingfu laid bouquets before the statue of the great leader and made a bow on the same day.

DPRK: Foreign Skaters Pay Homage to Kim Il-song at Kumsusan

SK1402090396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Teams of different countries, which came to participate in the 5th Paektusan Prize International Figure Skating Tournament, on Tuesday [13 February] visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to the great leader President Kim Il-song, who lies in state in the palace.

Coach of the Chinese team Cui Changguo wrote in the visitor's book that the exploits of President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, will remain long with the century and that he is immortal.

DPRK: Foreign Party Delegations Visit Kumsusan Memorial Palace

SK1202035196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0329 GMT 12 Feb 96

[All names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) — Foreign party delegations now staying in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace in which the great leader President Kim Il-song lies in state and paid their respects to him on Sunday.

Among them were a delegation of the Ukrainian Communist Party led by First Secretary of its Central Committee P.N. Symonenko; Tani Baler Lopera, general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru, and his companion; a delegation of the National Assembly Party of Jordan led by deputy general secretary of its Central Committee Wadie A. al-Sayegh; and a delegation of the Krasnoyarsk Territorial Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation led by First Secretary of its Krasnoyarsk City Committee Yu. S. Puzintsev.

Guests made entries in the visitor's book.

The head of the Ukrainian Communist Party delegation wrote that the great achievements of the DPRK people prove the justness of the socialist cause to which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song devoted his whole life.

The general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru wrote that the Korean-style socialism built by the great Comrade Kim Il-song is advancing under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great man of history, who is making revolutionary cause of Comrade Kim Il-song shine generation after generation.

The head of the delegation of the National Assembly Party of Jordan wrote that today the chuche idea is successfully being carried into effect under the wise leadership of His Excellency the great Marshal Kim Chong-il, supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

DPRK: Cuban Charge Visits Pyongyang Metro Construction Museum

SK1202040496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0333 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) — Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Pedro Moran Tapanes and officials of the Cuban Embassy here visited the Metro Construction Museum on the occasion of the February holiday.

They were shown round the historical materials and relics with deep interest, being briefed about the successful construction of the Pyongyang Metro as a grand monumental edifice of the Workers' Party era.

After the visit Pedro Moran Tapanes said that such monumental edifices as the Pyongyang Metro could be built only under the wise leadership of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He wholeheartedly wished the Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il a long life in good health on the occasion of his 54th birthday.

DPRK: Syrian Charge Visits Pyongyang Metro Construction Museum

SK1402083496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Charge d'Affaires ad Interim Riyad Abbass [spelling of name as received] and officials of the Syrian Embassy here visited on Tuesday [13 February] the Metro Construction Museum on the occasion of the February holiday.

They were shown round the historical materials and relics with deep interest, being briefed about the construction of the Pyongyang Metro as a magnificent monumental edifice, the pride of the chuche era.

After the visit Riyad Abbass said the Pyongyang metro could be successfully built under the wise leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the great Comrade Kim Chong-il.

He noted that he got a better idea of the indomitable fighting spirit of the friendly Korean people through the visit.

He wrote in the visitor's book that visiting the museum he could know well how the Pyongyang Metro was built and that he sincerely wishes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and a long life on his 54th birthday.

"I am convinced that the Korean people will win a greater victory in their future struggle true to the behests of Comrade Kim Il- song," he wrote.

DPRK: DFRF, GFTUK Support Making 1996 Year of Peace, Unity

SK1402084096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0833 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Spokesmen of the Central Committees of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF) and the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) issued statements on February 13 supporting the proposal of a joint meeting of the political parties and organisations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to make this a "year of peace and great national unity."

The spokesman for the DFRF Central Committee said that all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas should save the country and the nation from the scourge of war and achieve peace and great national unity this year at any cost through a nationwide solidarity struggle.

He called upon the political parties, organisations and all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas to make an epochal turn in achieving reunification through confederacy by making this a "year of peace and great national unity".

"The Central Committee of the DFRF is ready to hold contacts and negotiations with any persons in South Korea and overseas who are interested in this," the spokesman stressed.

The spokesman for the Central Committee of the GFTUK said that all the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas, regardless of their residence and occupation, should categorically reject the frantic arms buildup and large-scale joint military drills of the U.S. bellicose forces and the South Korean rulers and conduct extensive anti-war, anti-nuke movement of various forms to remove the danger of nuclear war.

He urged that the United States look straight at the trend of the present times and the will of the Korean people and come out to the negotiating table to establish a new peace mechanism for a durable peace in the Korean peninsula.

"The Central Committee of the GFTUK expresses the hope that the labour movement organisations and groupings and all the workers in South Korea and overseas would show an affirmative response to the proposal of the joint meeting of the political parties and organisations in the DPRK", the spokesman stressed.

DPRK WPK Hosts Party for Ukrainian Communist Party Delegation

SK1102074796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0656 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] hosted a party on the evening of February 10 for the delegation of the Ukrainian Communist Party on a visit to Korea.

Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, in his speech at the party said that the Ukrainian Communist Party has conducted positive activities to rebuild itself and turn the country back to the course of socialist development instead of subjugation, braving manifold trials, and thus becomes no. 1 party of the parliament, which enjoys the support from the broad sections of the working people.

Pointing out that the Ukrainian Communist Party has made strenuous efforts to build itself into a mass party deeply rooted among the working people and to rebuild socialism which a large number of communists and people had gained at the cost of their precious lives, blood and sweats, the speaker said that the Workers' Party of Korea highly praises its activities and wishes it a greater success in its activities.

Head of the delegation P.N. Symonenko, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist Party, spoke next.

He said that the Korean people have made tremendous achievements in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

This gives hope to the world people aspiring after social justice, the speaker added.

He stressed that to grandly celebrate the birthday of the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is an important occasion in more closely uniting the people in the struggle to realize the great idea and cause.

DPRK WPK Secretary Kim Chung-nin Meets Peruvian Party Leader

SK1102072396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0627 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) — Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, had talks with Tani Baler Lopera [spelling of name as received], general secretary of the National Executive Committee of the Left Revolutionary Union of Peru, here on Saturday.

They informed each other of their parties' activities and discussed matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

DPRK: Bangladesh, Angolan Leaders Support Korean Reunification

SK1202102696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0927 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) — The Bangladesh president and the Angolan prime minister referred to the problem of the Korean reunification when they met the DPRK ambassadors to their countries.

Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas highly praised the great successes made by the Korean people in various domains under the wise leadership of his excellency the Great Leader Kim Il-song in the past and expressed the belief that they will register a greater success under the wise leadership of his excellency the great leader Kim Chong-il.

He emphasized that Bangladesh will support the struggle of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in the future, too, as in the past.

Angolan Prime Minister Marcolino Jose Carlos Moco sincerely hoped that the Korean people will firmly adhere to the line of the socialist construction and achieve great success in the struggle for national reunification by confederacy formula under the wise leadership of His Excellency Kim Chong-il.

DPRK Article Extols 7th Regiment's 'Revolutionary Spirit'

SK1202095396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0921 GMT 12 Feb 96

["NODONG SINMUN Calls For Learning From Forerunners' Spirit of Defending Leader" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 12 (KCNA) — The immortal revolutionary spirit the Korean people should follow down through generations is the spirit of the Seventh Regiment which devotedly defended the leader in the period of the "arduous march" (December 1938-March 1939), the most difficult period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The Seventh Regiment devotedly defended the headquarters of the revolution in the van at all times and set an example of how the true revolutionaries should uphold and defend their leader.

The Seventh Regiment's spirit of defending the leader is the spirit of human bomb and the spirit of rifle and bomb — devotedly defending the headquarters of the revolution even in the most difficult conditions. It is also the spirit of singlehearted unity in which all members of the regiment defended the headquarters of the revolution at the risk of their lives, firmly united in one mind. And it is the unquestioned spirit of unconditionally and thoroughly implementing the plan and intention of the leader in any adversity.

The article further says:

Only the man who becomes a rifle and bomb to defend his leader at the risk of his life in the most difficult period when he should dedicate his life unhesitatingly, is a true revolutionary who cherishes loyalty to the leader as his faith, conscience, morality and part of every-day life. The example of such revolutionaries was created by the O Chung-hup Seventh Regiment during the "arduous march".

Regimental Commander O Chung-hup and his men drew to them all the firepower of the enemy in the spirit of defeating the enemy without fail and defending the safety of the great leader Comrade Kim Il- song. When the headquarters was in danger, they ran a long rough path immediately to defend it at the risk of their lives.

The regimental commander and his men thought of the security of the headquarters before anything else and raised the safety of the great leader as their first requirement and struggled for it. This was the spirit and features of the Seventh Regiment.

It was an inviolable iron rule and discipline of the regiment that it should certainly implement the orders of Comrade Kim Il-song at the risk of their lives under any circumstances.

For its unfailing loyalty to his orders and directives the regiment demonstrated its honour as a unit with fighting efficiency at all times and today it is invariably standing in the van of the revolutionary ranks.

The Korean revolution is eternally invincible as long as respected Comrade Kim Chong-il, the most famous general in the world, stands in the van and our heroic people and matchless army are united around him as firm as a rock in the spirit of the Seventh Regiment.

DPRK: 40th Anniversary of Korean Folklore Museum Commemorated

SK1302131396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 13 (KCNA) — The 40th anniversary of the Korean Folklore Museum has just been commemorated.

The museum has been the nation's leading folklore relics preservation and research base and a centre for mass education. Over the past 40 years since its foundation (February 10, 1956) its exhibition area has increased ten times and the number of exhibits 3.5 times and an academic study group was formed with men of ability under the wise guidance of the party and the leader.

The officials and researchers of the museum studied historical evidence of the old production practices, foodstuffs, home etiquette, various games and customs created by the Korean nation in a long history and thus made contributions to the development of socialist national culture and the establishment of the socialist way of life.

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea in a congratulatory message to the researchers, lecturers and employees of the museum on its 40th anniversary highly praised them for their great achievements in carrying out the party's policy of preserving national culture.

A meeting was held to mark the 40th anniversary of the museum on February 12.

Present there were Choe Tae-pok, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, and officials concerned.

The reporter and speakers said that all the officials and employees will achieve greater success in the study and introduction of the excellent folklore tradition of the Korean people to meet the requirements of the developing realities and make great contributions to glorifying for all ages the great achievements made under the guidance of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leaders, and bringing about a greater prosperity and development of the country and the homeland.

DPRK Chart Shows Development of Astronomy in Koguryo Dynasty

SK1402085096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Astronomy has been developed on a high level from ancient times in Korea.

"Chonsangyolchabunya chido" (astronomical chart) is one of typical things showing the astronomical development in the Koguryo Dynasty.

The astronomical chart is a little revised and supplemented edition of a stone astronomical chart made in the period of the Koguryo Dynasty (277 B.C.-668).

It was made in 1395 on the basis of a rubbed copy of the stone astronomical chart.

Drawn in a large circle in the centre of "Chonsangyolchabunya chido" is a planisphere surrounded by its makers' signatories and explanations.

The astronomical chart is not only a valuable astronomical legacy of Korea but a precious material in the world astronomical history.

Koguryo's astronomical and meteorological observations began early in the Third Century B.C.

DPRK: Increase in Freight Haulage in Feb Reported

SK1402085196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0843 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, February 14 (KCNA) — Freight haulage has been on the increase in Korea.

According to data available at the Ministry of Marine Transport, domestic freightage boosted by 26 percent, transit cargo tonnage by 4 percent and overseas shipping turnover by 2 percent in the first ten days of February as against the corresponding period of last year.

The Associated Marine Transport Bureau carried much more cargo than schedule by raising the operation rate of ships.

In the period the Chongjin Marine Transport Company carried 5,800 more tonnes of freight than in the same period of last year.

DPRK: Officials, Family Pay Respects to Deceased Yi Sung-ki

SK1002035896 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the death of Dr. Yi Sung-ki — a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly, labor hero, and director of the Hamhung Branch of the National Academy of Sciences, as well as an academician and professor — functionaries of the power organs, administrative and economic organs, and people at various levels in Hamhung visited the bier of the deceased and expressed deep sorrow on 9 February.

A wreath sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and people, was placed by the bier.

Also placed beside the bier were wreaths sent in the name of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], the DPRK Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, the National Academy of Sciences, local party and power organs, administrative and economic bodies, working organizations, science research institutes, industrial establishments, and universities.

The bereaved family of the deceased was standing beside the bier to receive mourners.

Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the Party Central Committee; Yi Mong-ho, secretary of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly; functionaries concerned, including Kim Kil-yon, president of the National Academy of Sciences; Yi Tae-yon, responsible secretary of the South Hamgyong Provincial Party Committee as well as chairman of the South Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee; functionaries concerned of local party and power organs, administrative and economic bodies, and working organizations; functionaries of scientific, educational, culture, art, and press organs; and the people at various levels in Hamhung visited the bier. [passage omitted on life and achievements of Dr. Yi Sung-ki]

South Korea

ROK: LWR Planning Office Head Departs for U.S. KEDO Meeting

SK1202083596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — The Light-Water Reactor [LWR] Planning Office director, Choe Tong-chin, left Sunday [11 February] for New York for five days to discuss pending issues with the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO), the Planning Office disclosed Monday.

The issues to be discussed include cost-sharing for the light water reactors to North Korea, financing heavy oil shipments to the North, and recruiting the European Union (EU) and Mideast countries for KEDO membership.

Follow-up negotiations with North Korea regarding the work that has to be done to prepare the survey site for light-water reactors will also be discussed.

As to the reported restructuring of KEDO membership, South Korea was said to favor a formula that allows EU or Middle East countries the status of observers for KEDO's Executive Board or the chairmanship for a Heavy Oil Advisory Committee, whose rights are in proportion to the degree of their financial contribution.

Director Choe will discuss these matters with Stephen Bosworth, KEDO executive director, according to the Planning Office.

An official at the office, meanwhile, said that it is likely the KEDO Executive Board meeting, originally slated for mid-February, will be postponed for about one month.

The Executive Board meeting agenda includes reorganizing the KEDO board of executives, and devising a strategy for light-water reactor follow-up negotiations with Pyongyang.

ROK: U.S. Plan To Expand KEDO Membership Noted

SK1202052596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0448 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 12 (YONHAP) — The United States plans to reorganize the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) to include more countries, such as the European Union (EU), in a bid to secure stable sources of funds for providing heavy oil to North Korea, KYODO News Service reported Monday.

KYODO quoted a Washington official as indicating over the weekend that the United States is pushing for the expanded role of other countries in the international consortium, with South Korea, the United States and Japan leading the way.

The U.S. official made the remark in connection with the financial burden of KEDO's annual heavy oil shipments to North Korea, which was agreed upon under the 1994 framework agreement.

He said Washington has no plans yet to ask Tokyo for any more than the 12 million U.S. dollars Japan has agreed to pay due to a delay in the congressional approval of the 1996 U.S. appropriations bill.

The official emphasized there is no change in his government's plan to pay half of the 50 million dollars needed for the annual 500,000-ton oil shipments to North Korea beginning this year.

He added that Washington will proceed as planned to ask countries other than South Korea and Japan, such as the EU and Middle East countries, to finance the other half of scheduled oil shipments.

ROK: U.S. Forces Korea Announces Plans for Military Exercises

SK0902054296 Seoul YONHAP in English 0449 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) — The U.S. Navy will engage in a routine manueuver called Valiant Usher 96-2K in South Korea from Friday until Feb. 18, the United States Forces Korea (USFK) announced Friday.

During the naval exercise, training will consist of aircraft carrier operations and other types of naval training.

Additionally, the U.S. Air Force, as part of its scheduled exercise Coronet Regatta, will conduct practice bombing drills at Pilsung range from Tuesday through Thursday. Two B-52 stratofortress bombers and two B-1B lancers flying in from the United States will participate in joint exercises with the Korean Air Force.

Manueuvers such as Coronet Regatta test the support abilities of long-range bombers to reach their goals and employ power projection.

ROK Defense Ministry Suspends 'Team Spirit' Exercise

SK1402062196 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0600 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Team Spirit ROK-U.S. joint military exercise has been suspended again this year, following its suspension in 1994 and 1995.

The ROK Defense Ministry announced that it decided not to conduct the Team Spirit exercise this year considering the overall security situation on the Korean peninsula and North Korea's continued implementation of the Geneva agreement. It added that the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise this year would not affect the readiness of the ROK and the U.S. Forces. As a result, the Team Spirit exercise, which began in 1976, will not be conducted for the fourth time.

ROK: DPRK Official on Kim Chong-il Inauguration Date

SK1002061796 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 10 Feb 96 p 6

[Report by correspondent Kim Kuk-chin from Nihigata]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview by a CHUNGANG ILBO reporter on the night of 8 February, Kim Ung-yol, vice chairman of the DPRK Committee for the Promotion of External Economic Cooperation who is attending a conference on the Northeast Asian economy in Nihigata, Japan, said that "Kim Chong-il's presidential inauguration will possibly be realized any time after July this year, when the two-year mourning period for Kim Il-song ends."

Concerning Kim Chong-il, he pointed out that "Secretary Kim Chong-il has been leading politics and economics in the northern half of the Republic for 30 years. North Korean people respect Secretary Kim, just as they respect President Kim Il-song who has passed away." He also stressed that North Korean society is very stable.

ROK: Kim Chong-il Reportedly Met Ex-Soviet Defense Minister in Dec 95

SK1102065396 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 11 Feb 96 p 26

[Report by Mun Myong-ho from Moscow]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned belatedly that North Korea's Kim Chong-il, who has refrained from meeting foreigners since the death of President Kim Il-song in July 1994, sent a special invitation to, and last December on three separate occasions met with former Soviet Marshal Dmitriy Yazov, who is a former defense minister.

Yazov revealed in an interview with Russia's pro-Communist magazine PATRIOT: "I met Comrade Kim Chong-il three times during my visits to Korea. At my first meeting with him, Comrade Kim introduced me to the commanders of the entire Army and secretaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea."

He also added: "All of them expressed regret over the collapse of the former Soviet Union, our great fatherland, and seemed to think that it was caused by the betrayal of Gorbachev and other leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union."

ROK Daily on Different Stances of 4 Powers on DPRK Aid

SK0402114796 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 2 Feb 96 p 7

[Article by Pae Myong-pok: "The Different Stance of the Four Powers Toward Food Aid to North Korea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The four powers related to the Korean peninsula issue have a very different stance toward food aid to North Korea.

Above all, they have different assessments of the North Korean food situation. The United States is concerned about the "crisis situation," predicting North Korea will suffer food shortages this spring. Japan believes the North Korean food situation is very serious, while both the PRC and Russia, traditionally friendly toward North Korea, comfortably believe "North Korea still has enough food to eat."

Under the situation in which it is impossible to objectively assess the North Korean food situation, it is more likely that the different views of the four powers originate from their different understanding of North Korea. In other words, they have assessed the North Korean food situation according to their own yardsticks. Thus, it is natural that either the content of the aid or the method of aid will not be the same. Concerning food aid to North Korea, the four are of the same opinion that they can provide it to North Korea on humanitarian grounds. However, they have different intentions over what they seek through providing food aid to North Korea.

Of the four powers, three of the powers have directly provided food aid to North Korea through governmental channels, with the United States abstaining from doing so. Japan is the most active. Following the first shipment in June of last year of 300,000 tones of rice to North Korea, which included credit assistance of 150,000 tones of rice and the provision of 150,000 tones of rice on grant, in October Japan decided to provide a second shipment of 200,000 tones of rice to North Korea on a credit base. As of the present, approximately 450,000 tonnes of rice have been shipped to North Korea. With the approach of the resumption of negotiations with North Korea regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations, it seems Japan's provision of rice is aimed at easing North Korea's stance toward the compensation issue. In other words, Japan intends to resume negotiations with North Korea on establishing diplomatic relations.

The PRC has directly provided North Korea with grain totalling $3.6 million on the grounds of relief assistance. However, Russia's provision of relief assistance to North Korea is quite small. In September of last year, it provided North Korea with blankets, pharmaceuticals, and daily necessities totalling $200,000. There are reports that the PRC is now considering providing North Korea with 200,000 or 400,000 tonnes of grains, but these have not been confirmed. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs feels that considering North Korea-PRC relations and the PRC food situation, it may be not true. Ultimately, the provision of food aid to North Korea by the PRC and Russia is likely to serve as a face saving measure for these countries friendly to North Korea.

In October of last year, the United States, which cannot but be concerned about the ROK Government's stance, indirectly provided North Korea with $225,000 through the World Food Program [WFP]. In addition, it is expected that in the near future, the United States will provide North Korea with an additional $1 million through the WFP. The United States has stated it intends to lead the North Korean system to open up its society. However, it is felt that this is an expression of U.S. sincerity for North Korea's maintenance of its nuclear freeze as well as a U.S. gift for improved relations with North Korea. Of course, with the approach of the elections, it is difficult to ignore the pressure by relevant officials of U.S. nongovernmental organizations that call for humanitarian principles. However, many believe the strategy of the Clinton administration is to "appease North Korea" because improved relations with North

Korea can be claimed as a diplomatic success by the Clinton administration.

ROK Daily Views DPRK Refusal of International Food Aid

SK1002050296 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 10 Feb 96 p 7

[Report by Kim Yon-kwang]

[FBIS Translated Text] North Korea, which carried out extensive "begging diplomacy" toward the international community after suffering flood damage, has positively expressed its willingness to resolve the rice issue directly with the United States. Choe Su-hon, North Korea's vice foreign minister, has said that "North Korea does not want to accept any more aid from international organizations, because the military has refused them." His remarks apparently reflect an official expression of a change in the North Korean position.

On 9 February, intelligence-related offices in the government analyzed in every way the true intention of Vice Minister Choe in his remarks reported by the 8 February edition of THE NEW YORK TIMES.

In view of the fact that he did not mention at all aid from the ROK, the United States, or Japan, Choe's remarks are believed to include a silent outcry that "now Clinton should become personally involved."

On 20 January, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that "our military has been worried about the possibility of insidious forces attempting to misuse the issue of aid for flood damage for their purpose of leading us to reform and opening up," and warned that "if one attempts to use humanitarian aid for one's political purposes, we will go our own way according to our decision and judgment."

In view of this, it is highly likely that North Korea's moves to refuse international aid will be visualized soon. North Korea opened flood damaged areas in Sinuiju, Huichon and Unpa to fact- finding teams from the World Food Council, the International Red Cross Society, and the like, allowing them to watch the entire process of distribution of relief materials.

However, the relief materials North Korea has obtained from international organizations — even through "disgraceful concessions" unimaginable in the Kim Il-song era — amounted only to $20 million. This amount is indeed insignificant compared to the 150,000 tonnes of rice (equivalent to $220 million) North Korea's Chon Kum-chol succeeded in obtaining from the ROK through a one-time only negotiation. North Korea's decision to refuse aid might have been prompted by its judgment that it cannot expect any further aid from international organizations.

It was pointed out that Vice Minister Choe's open denunciation of the military's attitude aroused people's doubts, because disclosure of policy discord between the Foreign Ministry and the military by a Foreign Ministry official and complaints against the military can hardly be imagined in North Korea, with a "military-centered crisis management system." Choe Chu-hwal, the former North Korean Army colonel who recently defected to South Korea, testified that "the unitary system of the party's control of the military is certain and firm. One can hardly imagine that the military and Foreign Ministry would raise opinions differing from the policy decided by the party."

Whenever a stumbling block appears in negotiations over North Korea's nuclear program and light-water reactors, North Korea resorts to a strategy designed to win concessions and that uses the pretext of the existence of a "hardline faction within the military." Besides, North Korea is delaying negotiations for establishing liaison offices that are under way, on the pretext that "the military opposes diplomatic pouches passing through Panmunjom." This being the case, the people observe that with a view to leading diplomatic negotiations in a direction favorable to itself, North Korea is taking advantage of "the military card," because Kim Chong-il has grasped complete control of the military.

Successive statements released recently by North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman and remarks by Vice Foreign Minister Choe contain a consistent message. That is: "Despite opposition from the hardline military faction, we are pushing ahead with opening and reform," "however, complaints from the military may erupt at any time."

All these remarks faithfully correspond to the "strategic intent" of the United States calling for support to North Korea so as to strengthen the position and influence of the moderate faction within North Korea and ensure stability in the North Korean system. In other words, North Korea has clearly expressed the idea of exercising influence over the ROK through the rice issue, with the United States as a lever.

ROK: NUB Says DPRK Propaganda Attacks Growing 'More Harsh'

SK1302140396 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 13 Feb 96 p 10

[Report by Kim In-ku]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned that in recent months the number of North Korean propaganda attacks on the ROK has diminished, but the content of the attacks has become more harsh and violent. National Unification Board [NUB] statistics on North Korea's slanderous broadcasts against the ROK during the three-month period from November 1995 to January 1996 indicate that in November 1995 the average daily number of slanders and denunciations of the ROK was 17.1 (9.4 in central broadcasts, 7.7 in Pyongyang broadcasts); 13.8 in December (6.8 in central broadcasts, 7 in Pyongyang broadcasts), and 11.7 in January 1996 (5.7 in central broadcasts, 6 in Pyongyang broadcasts).

However, the NUB observes that the decrease in the number of anti-ROK broadcasts does not reflect a change in North Korea's policy on the ROK, but rather is a result of its concentrating propaganda on other issues, such as urging North Korean citizens to meet production quotas before year's end, and broadcasts related to Kim Chong-il's achievements with his 16 February birthday approaching. The NUB thus expects that the volume of anti-ROK propaganda will increase after Kim's birthday, particularly in connection with the 15th-term ROK National Assembly elections scheduled for April.

According to the NUB analysis of broadcast content during the period, North Korean propaganda has emphasized personal slandering of President Kim and called for "the overthrow of the ROK Government," while giving shorter shrift to ROK Government policy or to ROK Government officials in general.

A comparison of the January New Year's editorials published in three newspapers in 1995 and 1996 illustrates this emphasis. The January 1995 editorial said: "...The ROK's civilian government is sheer deceit and is a more humiliating, fascist regime than the military governments which preceded it." The January 1996 editorial put it this way: "Kim Yong-sam, the master of deceit, supports the fascist and traitorous split of the nation... Kim Yong-sam and his gang must be removed."

During the three months in question, North Korean propaganda dealt most frequently with the following issues, in descending order: The "let's set history right" movement, including the 12 December 1979 and May 1980 Kwangju incidents; ROK-U.S. combined military exercises; and instigation of ROK college students, workers, and military personnel to stage anti-ROK Government struggles.

ROK Official Discusses Possible Handling of Song Case

SK1402010196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0013 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — South Korean Ambassador to Geneva Ho Sung said Tuesday that if Song Hye-rim, ex-wife of North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il, and members of her family seek asylum, his mission would handle the request in accordance with international practices by consulting with the Swiss Government and the local representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"But we know nothing about their whereabouts, nor whether they have applied for asylum," Ho said in a telephone interview with YONHAP Tuesday night.

Song, 59, the mother of Kim's eldest son, was reported to have left her Moscow apartment, where she had lived since 1983, for Switzerland on or around Jan. 20 along with her elder sister Song Hye-rang, 61, her niece Yi Nam-ok, 30, and an attendant. The group reportedly went into hiding earlier this month.

Councillor Kim Yong-nam at the South Korean Embassy in Bern, meanwhile, said, "If and when asylum is sought by Song and her family, Switzerland, a neutral country, would deal with it in a fair manner without being influenced by other countries."

It has been confirmed by the Swiss authorities, however, that the group has not applied for asylum as yet, Kim said.

"What's important for now is their safety...in case the Song family applies for asylum to the Swiss Government, we'll first confirm their intentions and do our best to ensure their safety and proceed with the case successfully in consultation with a task force to be dispatched from Seoul," Kim added.

ROK: DPRK Embassy in Moscow Denies Rumors About Song

SK1402013396 Seoul YONHAP in English 0100 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — The North Korean Embassy here on Tuesday dismissed Seoul-based press reports of Kim Chong-il's ex-wife fleeing to a western country as "completely fabricated and a deceitful ploy."

In an interview with ITAR-TASS news agency, Embassy Counselor Yun Myong-chin said he had no knowledge of whether Song Hye-rim has left the Russian capital or not. He condemned, however, recent newspaper reports of her alleged escape to the West as concoctions of the media.

ITAR-TASS, meanwhile, quoted an unnamed Russian Foreign Ministry official as saying, "There is almost no chance that Kim's ex-wife would leave Moscow without saying a word."

ROK Paper Interviews Nephew Defector of Song Hye-rim

SK1402114896 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 14 Feb 96 p 3

[Interview with Yi Han-yong, the nephew of Song Hye-rim, Kim Chong-il's former wife, by TONG-A ILBO reporters Sim Kyu-son, Mun Chol, and Yi Pyong-ki in Seoul on 13 February]

[FBIS Translated Text] [TONG-A ILBO] Where do you think your mother (Song Hye-rang) and your maternal aunt (Song Hye-rim) are now?

[Yi Han-yong] I think they are in a third country. I can guess where they are, but cannot tell you for certain. I worry about possible North Korean measures against them.

[TONG-A ILBO] Why did they move from Moscow to Switzerland?

[Yi] Because they are not subject to surveillance in Switzerland. In other countries, they have to be under close surveillance.

[TONG-A ILBO] How long do you think they stayed in Switzerland?

[Yi] About 10 days, I guess.

[TONG-A ILBO] When was your last telephone conversation with them?

[Yi] Around the middle of December.

[TONG-A ILBO] What was the content of your telephone conversation?

[Yi] I persuaded them to defect to the ROK. However, my mother [Song Hye-rang] hesitated to give a definite answer, saying if she came to the ROK, it would irritate Kim Chong-il.

[TONG-A ILBO] What is she afraid of?

[Yi] She seemed to be afraid of possible North Korean terrorism because this problem is so closely related to Kim Chong-il.

[TONG-A ILBO] Why did your mother risk visiting North Korea?

[Yi] My mother visited North Korea to bring my sister along.

[TONG-A ILBO] What is your real name?

[Yi] Yi Il-nam. I changed my name to Yi Han-yong after defecting to the ROK.

[TONG-A ILBO] When did you defect?

[Yi] On ROK Armed Forces Day [1 October] in 1982.

[TONG-A ILBO] How did you contact your maternal aunt?

[Yi] My maternal aunt lived in Moscow in 1973. At that time, I lived with her in Moscow while I studied there. She often visited North Korea. She received medical treatment at the Kremlin hospital.

[TONG-A ILBO] What was wrong with her?

[Yi] She was suffering from nervous prostration and diabetes.

[TONG-ILBO] When did your mother and maternal aunt start living together?

[Yi] My mother came to Moscow right after I defected to the ROK. I guess my mother's coming to Moscow was a result of my maternal aunt's special consideration. She worried about my mother being purged in Pyongyang.

[TONG-A ILBO] When did Song Hye-rim, your maternal aunt, make up her mind to escape?

[Yi] At first, she hesitated. However, she seemed to change her mind after I telephoned her several times and persuaded her to escape.

[TONG-A ILBO] Is it not difficult for her to defect to the ROK because of her son, Chong-nam, who lives in North Korea?

[Yi] My maternal aunt's health is so poor that without help, she cannot walk. Accordingly, I guess there is a high possibility she will defect to the ROK, her native home.

[TONG-A ILBO] When do you think your mother and maternal aunt will defect to the ROK?

[Yi] I cannot tell.

[TONG-A ILBO] When was your first telephone call to your mother?

[Yi] Last October. Making a telephone call to them was inconceivable during the Fifth and Sixth Republics.

[TONG-ILBO] Where do you think they are now?

[Yi] Given the fact that my sister can speak both English and French, they must be staying in a country where English or French is used.

[TONG-A ILBO] How can they escape by themselves without consulting with others?

[Yi] I think they asked for asylum with the government of a third country, and their request for asylum has already been granted. I believe they are now in that third country.

[TONG-A ILBO] Then they might not defect to the ROK?

[Yi] In the long run, I think they will defect to the ROK. Actually, I recommended that they go to the United States if they did not want to come to the ROK. However, I believe they will come to the ROK because my aunt told my uncle (Song Il-ki) "she will come back to her home town when she gets old" and "let us live together."

[TONG-A ILBO] It may be difficult for your aunt to choose the ROK because of her son (Kim Chong-nam).

[Yi] If you knew about the high-class society in North Korea, you would not think so. There is no sentiment between parents and sons in North Korea.

[TONG-A ILBO] When do you think they will come to the ROK?

[Yi] I believe they will come to the ROK after spending a few months in a third country.

[TONG-A ILBO] If your mother is in hiding at a safe place, how can she contact you?

[Yi] They have a telephone number with which they can contact me. They will call me soon.

[TONG-A ILBO] How did Song Il-ki contact them?

[Yi] I gave my uncle the telephone number of my aunt's residence in Moscow. He called and met her in Moscow.

[TONG-A ILBO] Who lives in the Moscow residence?

[Yi] My aunt was accompanied by approximately 5 people, such as cook, a maid, a clerk, a driver, and an interpreter.

[TONG-A ILBO] What grade of official accompanied her as her attendant?

[Yi] She was accompanied by a deputy assistant minister-level official.

[TONG-A ILBO] Did you ever meet Kim Chong-il?

[Yi] I had a chance to eat with Kim Chong-il when I visited Kim Chong-nam (25 years of age, born in 1971), the son of Kim Chong-il, at his residence in Chungsong-tong.

[TONG-A ILBO] What about Kim Chong-il's attitude toward his son, Kim Chong-nam?

[Yi] Kim Chong-il was taking good care of him. One month before Kim Chong-nam's birthday, Kim Chong-il ordered the Guard General Bureau to buy a present for him from a foreign country.

[TONG-A ILBO] What is Kim Chong-nam doing now?

[Yi] He is being educated to become the successor.

[TONG-A ILBO] As mentioned before, disclosing the above-mentioned facts to the public under the situation in which your aunt and her family have not yet arrived in the ROK may harm them.

[Yi] Actually, I did not want the media to report it. The media made it public without informing me.

[TONG-A ILBO] Could you specifically tell me your mother's home town?

[Yi] Seoul. Both my mother and aunt studied at Sadaebu Middle School.

[TONG-A ILBO] Could you tell me the lineage of the Kim Chong-il family?

[Yi] Kim Chong-nam and Kim Sol-song are registered as Kim Chong-il's family. The reports that Miss Hong was Kim Chong-il's first wife are untrue. My aunt was the first wife of Kim Chong-il. Kim Chong-il has had three wives.

[TONG-A ILBO] If Song Hye-rim defects to the ROK, what do you think Kim Chong-il's reaction will be? In particular, what about the future of Kim Chong-nam, his son?

[Yi] Kim Chong-il will be upset. However, I do not think Kim Chong-nam's position will suffer. Kim Chong-il's affection for his son is great because Chong-nam is his eldest son.

ROK: Song Hye-rim Reportedly Staying in Netherlands

SK1402080896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0656 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — South Korean officials are attempting to contact North Korean leader Kim Chong- il's ex-wife Song Hye-rim and members of her family, who are now reportedly staying in the Netherlands following an escape from Russia, in an effort to help them come to South Korea, a government official said Wednesday.

"Our task force is trying to meet with the Song family in the Netherlands. Once their intention to seek asylum is confirmed, negotiations with the necessary foreign authorities will be held to bring them to South Korea," the official said.

Given the fact that North Korea denounced Song and her party's escape to the west from a Moscow apartment as a fabrication, the task force will be especially careful to eliminate possible sources of conflict with the North by confirming the family's intentions through the local representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, according to the official.

"In its negotiations with foreign government officials and international agencies, the South Korean Government plans to respect the wishes of the Song family," the official added. "Should they wish to come to Seoul, the government will try to help them do so. If they want to seek asylum in a third country, we'll render assistance to help them do that as well."

In light of the Song family's backgrounds and career, there is a good chance that they might wish to live in a Western country where German or French is spoken, according to the official.

One reason the Song family has gone to the Netherlands from Switzerland, where they stayed for a short time after leaving Moscow, appears to be that it has no North Korean mission, the official speculated.

"We are trying to determine the circumstances of the Song family right now. Multifaceted steps are being formulated to cope with any eventuality that might develop in case their intention to seek asylum is confirmed," the official added.

ROK NSP Refuses To Confirm Data on Song Hye-rim

SK1402081896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0808 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] declined to confirm some press reports Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Chong-il's former wife, Song Hye-rim, and members of her family will soon come to Seoul.

Neither their whereabouts nor their future destination can be confirmed, the top intelligence agency said.

The agency said the report that a South Korean task force has been sent to the Netherlands to help the Song family come to South Korea was untrue.

Some reports had it that Song Hye-rim, 59, the mother of Kim Chong-il's first son Kim Chong-nam, 26, together with her elder sister Song Hye-rang, 61, her niece Yi Nam-ok, 30, and her attendant are now staying in the Netherlands after leaving their Geneva villa in early February, where they had stayed since they left Moscow Jan. 20.

Since the safety of the Song family is the most important thing right now, government authorities are doing their best to help ensure their safety, the NSP added.

ROK: Song Hye-rim Case Creates 'Uneasiness'

SK1402075896 Seoul YONHAP in English
0734 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — The ex-wife of North Korea's de facto leader Kim Chong-il, who reportedly went into hiding in Switzerland, is yet to file an application for political asylum with any South Korean missions abroad, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Director General Cho Chang-pom of the ministry's European Affairs Bureau also said that "we have no information on the whereabouts of Song Hye-rim and her party who reportedly are seeking asylum in South Korea or a third country."

He said that the Foreign Ministry will start its own operation only after the North Korean women express a willingness to defect to Seoul or a third country.

The Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) is usually in charge of cases involving potential defectors from North Korea.

The agency meanwhile said in a statement that "we are not in a position to reveal the whereabouts of Song Hye-rim and her sister nor their destination."

The statement, released by the Information Officer of the nation's top intelligence agency, also said, "the Government of the Republic of Korea is doing its best to secure their safety because that is the most urgent task facing the agency," strongly hinting that the agency has had some contact with Song and her followers.

Reports have indicated that Song and three others including her elder sister Hye-rang left Moscow, where they have lived since 1983, in late January and slipped into a West European country as a first step in defecting to South Korea or a third country.

Unlike the North Korean diplomat Hyon Song-il, Hyon's wife Choe Su-pong and North Korea's security agent Cha Song-kon who recently defected, the Song Hye-rim case has created an uneasiness within the Seoul government because of the possibility that it might further aggravate inter-Korean relations which are already tense, sources said.

The settlement of the Song case must have been delayed either because the South Korean Government has yet to make a final decision or because the North Koreans have not yet made up their minds on their destination, they said.

Song Hye-rang has a son and elder brother in Seoul. The son defected to Seoul in 1983 and the brother, formerly a communist guerrilla, abandoned his affiliation with the North Korea Workers' Party soon after he was caught in the South in 1953.

ROK: Song Hye-rim 'In Contact' with Officials

SK1402105096 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 14 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by Kim Sung-hyon]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 14 February, the government announced that Song Hye-rim, Kim Chong-il's former wife who escaped from Moscow, and her companions are now staying in a third country bordering Switzerland and are in contact with ROK officials. In this regard, the government is secretly pushing ahead with steps to guarantee their safe defection by cooperating with the countries concerned.

Today a government official revealed: "Song and four others are currently staying in a European country and are in contact with government officials."

He added: "During the contacts, Song and her companions clearly expressed the hope to seek asylum, and will probably defect to the ROK, the United States, or Europe in accordance with legitimate international law." He added: "They are likely to seek asylum in the ROK instead of another country."

Regarding this, the government is mapping out deliberate countermeasures for a possible acute confrontation between the North and South that might be fueled by Song's decision to seek asylum in the ROK.

Some government officials are calling for early repatriation of Song and her companions. However, those who prefer prudent actions maintain they should stay in a third country for a considerable time to assure their safe repatriation.

During a phone call today, Yi Han-yong, the son of Song Hye-rang who is a sister of Kim's former wife, revealed: "Seeing as they had carefully planned the escape, it is my understanding that my mother and aunt went to a third country after receiving a promise from that country regarding their safety."

Yi added: "The chances are high that my mother and aunt will seek asylum in the ROK or the United States."

During the contacts with ROK officials, Song and her companions reportedly stated that they possess 1 million dollars and sounded out the possibility of bringing the money into the ROK.

ROK: Government on Shooting at Russian Mission in DPRK

SK1402112596 Seoul YONHAP in English 1119 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — The Foreign Ministry on Wednesday told the Korean Embassy in Moscow to find out details about the reported intrusion by an armed North Korean man into the Russian trade mission in Pyongyang.

Foreign reports had it that a man armed with a pistol broke into the Russian trade mission in Pyongyang's diplomatic quarter Wednesday morning killing about half a dozen North Korean guards and threatening to kill himself unless he is allowed asylum in Russia.

Saying that the Korean Embassy in Moscow reported to the ministry about the incident Wednesday afternoon, a ministry official said his ministry attaches a particular significance to the fact that the incident occurred in broad daylight in the heart of Pyongyang.

"If the incident were true, it could be a grave event along with the recent series of defection by a number of North Korean officials, an event that may herald the possible crisis of the North Korean system," the official said.

Meanwhile, a YONHAP dispatch from Moscow said Russian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin confirmed the incident in Pyongyang.

Karasin said, however, all he could do at the moment was to confirm the intrusion, adding no information was available as to details of the incident.

ROK: Seoul Began Planning Wharf for Tokto Island in 1993

SK1002025696 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — South Korea's plan to build a berth at Tokto Island in the East Sea, which became the seeds of a diplomatic row between Korea and Japan, was first prepared in 1993.

The plan was drafted by the Maritime and Port Administration (MPA) with a view to providing shelter for fishing boats operating in the surrounding waters and supplies for border guards stationed there to protect the remotest rocky island.

But the MPA project has been on hold for about a year awaiting the 18 billion-won (23 million U.S. dollar) budget allocation from the government, which came last year.

A Pusan contractor will begin building the wharf sometime next month, where a 500-ton vessel is available for berthing, and complete it by next year.

Application was filed Friday with a relevant government agency for a 10-member joint survey team made up of government officials and employees of the contractor to visit the islet for a site survey.

ROK President: Japanese Tokto Claims 'Intolerable'

SK1002033996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0311 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 10 (YONHAP) — South Korean President Kim Yong-sam on Saturday dismissed Japan's claims to Tokto Island in the East Sea as "intolerable" and instructed his Cabinet to deal with the issue in a resolute manner.

Kim ordered the cancellation of a courtesy call by a Japanese coalition ruling party delegation on Chongwadae [presidential offices] which was slated for Monday.

In an unusually tough-worded statement regarding Japan's insistence that Tokto is part of Japanese territory, presidential spokesman Yun Yo-chun said, "Whenever Japan has had the opportunity, it has repeatedly made absurd remarks, beautifying its past colonial rule and acts of aggression on the Korean Peninsula, instead of reflecting on such acts."

Yun said, "We will never accept such absurd remarks, and will take a tough stance against them from now on."

"Japan is again provoking the wrath of South Koreans by claiming Tokto, which is obviously Korean territory both historically and according to international law," the spokesman said, adding that President Kim cancelled the scheduled courtesy visit that he was to receive Monday from Japanese ruling coalition's Policy Affairs Research Council.

Yun explained Chongwadae's comment on the Japanese claim to the islet demonstrates in symbolic manner the firm will of President Kim and the government.

A high-ranking government official, meanwhile, said that President Kim is resolute in his stance against the Japanese claim and has already directed the administration to strongly rebut the allegedly absurd Japanese remarks over the island.

He said the summit conference scheduled between South Korea and Japan during the Asia-Europe meeting in Bangkok is unlikely to take place if the Japanese claim to Tokto continues to escalate.

ROK: Dailies View Japanese Territorial Claims Over Tokto Island

SK1102102096

[FBIS Report] On 11 February, several of the major ROK vernacular dailies published editorials on Japanese Government officials' recent remarks claiming territorial sovereignty over Tokto Island in the Sea of Japan and on ROK Government reaction to their claim.

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial entitled "Absurd Remarks on Tokto Island Must Be Rooted Out." The editorial describes the Japanese territorial claim to Tokto Island and the Japanese demand for cancellation of ROK plans to build a wharf there as a "shameless act" deserving of historical reflection and as "absurd and preposterous remarks" repeated from long ago. The Japanese remarks are so nonsensical that the ROK need not react. However, the editorial stresses, the ROK should point out and denounce the "unjustness" of the Japanese claims made "hundreds of thousands of times" in a bid to "appeal Japan's immoral and inhumane attitude to international public opinion." The editorial adds that because Japan is accelerating the declaration of its "200-mile exclusive economic sea zone," the Tokto issue will be continuously raised in the future, and will remain a source of diplomatic discord between the ROK and Japan, because the ROK Government intends to announce a similar declaration. Stressing that "Tokto Island is clearly part of ROK territory, both historically and under international law," the editorial writes that the issue cannot be subject to negotiation from the very beginning. It calls on the ROK Government to map out "measures to block Japan's strategy to make the Tokto issue a diplomatic dispute" and to show "a firm and resolute attitude toward the issue" by doing away with the lukewarm attitude it has maintained in its past relations with Japan.

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO publishes on page 6 a 900-word editorial entitled "Tokto Island Is Part of Our Territory, Irrespective of Whatever Remarks Are Made and by Whom." Describing claims to Tokto Island by Japanese officials as "preposterous and absurd," the editorial points out that the Japanese claim is based on the unilateral announcement of its territorial right over Tokto Island in 1905, when Japanese imperialists invaded the Korean peninsula and "tied our hands and feet." The editorial notes that even a number of Japanese documents clearly indicate Tokto Island is part of Korean territory. Stressing that "we should not react excessively every time" Japan makes its "insignificant habitual claim," the editorial concludes by calling on the government and public opinion to "evade seriously damaging friendly ROK-Japan relations, doing so in a cool-headed and business-like manner."

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,100-word editorial under the headline "Tokto Island Is Part of Our Territory." Noting that "the Japanese claim to Tokto Island is nothing new," the editorial points out that Japan has unilaterally included the island in its territory in the past, stressing that "at no time throughout history was Tokto Island ever part of Japanese territory," and that "since 1953, Koreans have resided on Tokto Island and ROK police guards have been posted there." The editorial adds that Japan is attempting to make Tokto Island "an area of dispute" under international law by again raising its territorial sovereignty over the island, but its attempts are "a great mistake." The editorial emphasizes that, for Japan to be a leading state in the international community, it should first strive to "strengthen its friendship with neighboring countries and pursue common prosperity" instead of "irritating" them. The editorial concludes by urging Japan to cancel its remarks about Tokto Island, and calls on the ROK Government to expedite the construction of the wharf as planned and to deal with the Tokto Island issue "resolutely and coolly."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN publishes on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "We Should Sternly Deal With the Tokto Issue." Denouncing recent remarks made by high-ranking Japanese Government officials pertaining to Japan's territorial right over Tokto Island, the editorial writes that the Japanese claim is the same as "digging up unfortunate past events that occurred between the two countries." Suggesting that the Japanese Government's "undisguised absurd remarks" were prompted by "diplomatic calculation in the wake of their declaration of a 200-mile economic sea zone," the editorial emphasizes that "the Tokto issue is not simply a diplomatic issue, but rather a question of the nation's sovereignty." It concludes by urging the ROK Government to deal "resolutely" with the issue, instead of making "lukewarm" protests as in the past.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 a 1,000-word editorial under the headline "Let Us Coolly Deal With the Tokto Issue." The editorial writes that the ROK has already secured much data and material to refute Japan's claim to Tokto Island, and that the ROK has maintained a "more favorable position" toward this issue than Japan, "regardless of how Japan may describe Tokto Island on its own maps." Pointing to Japan's attempts to bring the issue to the international arena by making Tokto Island "an area of dispute," the editorial urges the ROK "to coolly deal with such moves by Japan by precisely grasping its true intent and purpose, instead of reacting impulsively to them." The editorial adds that Japan intends to declare its 200-mile economic sea zone around 16 February "in a bid to calm boisterous domestic affairs," and that this plan will have to be negotiated between the ROK and Japan. However, the editorial points out, this plan can be settled irrespective of the Tokto issue, and accordingly, we will secure "a more favorable position" than Japan. The editorial concludes by calling on the ROK Government and people to pay attention to "substantive issues" in addition to the Tokto issue, and to map out "measures to protect our fishing rights" while maintaining stable diplomatic relations with Japan.

The leftist-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 1,000-word editorial entitled "Japan's Calculated, Absurd Remarks Regarding Tokto Island." The editorial condemns Japanese officials' recent remarks on their territorial sovereignty over Tokto Island, noting that while their claim is nothing new, it is still very alarming in view of its "intensity and timing." The editorial states that such remarks are "aimed at taking the initiative in a tug-of-war between the ROK and Japan over fishing rights, which will inevitably be raised in the wake of Japan's declaration of a 200-mile exclusive economic sea zone." The editorial points out that "if Japan's high-handed and haughty attitude is left intact, one can hardly expect the smooth development of ROK-Japan relations in the future." Expressing "indignation and serious concern about the Japanese Government's habitual and absurd remarks," the editorial urges the ROK Government to show "a clear and stern attitude" toward Japan's "repeated provocations," doing away with its "lukewarm measures" as seen in the past so as not to damage national interests. The editorial concludes by calling for thoroughgoing preparations for handling the diplomatic discord that is expected to occur as a result of the declaration of the exclusive economic sea zone.

ROK National Assembly Committee Urges Japanese Apology

SK1302114996 Seoul YONHAP in English 1139 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP) — The National Assembly Unification and Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday adopted a resolution challenging the Japanese Government to apologize for laying claim to Tokto, a tiny Korean islet in the East Sea.

In the resolution, the committee said Tokto has been an inherent territory of Korea historically or in the light of international law.

"The contention by Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda that Tokto is part of the Japanese territory constitutes an express violation of the Korean sovereignty," the resolution said.

The committee demanded in the resolution that the Japanese Government make an apology over the claim in the interests of good neighborly relations between Korea and Japan and peace in Northeast Asia.

"The committee also urges our government to take firm measures so that no similar incident would recur over the Tokto issue," it said.

ROK: Eight Security Guards Sent To Reinforce Tokto Island

SK1302122096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0810 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ulung, North Kyongsang Province, Feb. 13 (YONHAP) — Police began to beef up security forces on Tokto Tuesday afternoon amid the worsening diplomatic row between Seoul and Tokyo over the island.

Eight additional security guards were dispatched by helicopters to join the 26-man garrison already stationed on the rocky island in the East Sea.

"We wanted to remind the garrison of the importance of defending Tokto, as well as setting up a perfect defense," said Yang Chae-yol, the head of the police guard team.

ROK: Background on Tokto, Expected Developments Viewed

SK1302143996 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 13 Feb 96

[By Hwang Tu-hyong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP) — The territorial dispute over Tokto between Seoul and Tokyo entered a second phase as both countries expressed their desire to separate the territorial issue from the imminent declaration of 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said over the past weekend that he had wished the territorial issue involving Tokto could be separated from the declaration of EEZ, although Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda's remarks on Japan's sovereignty over Tokto triggered a widespread uproar among Koreans.

A senior Foreign Ministry official expressed a similar view when he said that "our position is that the territorial issue and declaration of the EEZ should be kept separate while proceeding with negotiations to set boundaries between EEZs of the two countries."

Japan will reportedly declare its 200-nautical mile EEZ sometime Friday and South Korea will follow suit immediately to enter into negotiations.

A sovereign state has the right to have the EEZ under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and, within the zone, it has exclusive rights to seabed resources and development of seabed as well as fisheries and other marine resources.

"Each sovereign state is entitled to have the EEZ up to 200-nautical miles but neighboring countries should negotiate to set boundaries when the sea between them stretches less than the maximum range," he said.

The official assumed that the reason for Japan to raise its sovereignty over Tokto is that it wants to expand its EEZ as far as possible beyond Tokto, he said.

"The problem, however, is that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea does not allow any uninhabited rocky island, which cannot sustain people without outside economic assistance, to have its own EEZ or continental shelf," the official said.

In that case, the exclusive economic zone should be set in a median line dividing Ullung Island of South Korea and Okki Island of Japan, resulting in Tokto falling into the South Korean EEZ.

Although the convention allows uninhabited rocky island enclaves, Japan might fear that inclusion of Tokto into the South Korean EEZ could help Seoul consolidate its sovereignty over Tokto in the longer term, the official said.

"I don't think Japan is unaware of convention clauses regarding the rocky island," he said. "Japan's purpose, therefore, could be that it wants to create the Tokto islet territorial dispute, so that neither Korea or Japan will be able to finalize their EEZs surrounding the disputed islet."

The situation could finally obscure South Korea's claim to the islet just like Japan succeeded in invoking international concern about its territorial dispute with Russia regarding northern islands, he said.

South Korea's position, however, is that it will never allow Japan to take the Tokto issue to the negotiating table, contending that Tokto cannot be the subject of negotiations.

In case both countries are unable to reach an agreement on EEZ boundaries, each has the right to bring the case to the UN Court of Justice dealing with Maritime Affairs, the International Court of Jurists [ICJ] or other mediation organizations.

"Each state, however, also has the right to refuse involvement of the international organizations in setting boundaries for an EEZ unless it wants it," the official said.

"Furthermore, there's no precedent in which any territorial dispute has been settled through mediation by ICJ or other international mediation organizations," he said.

If Seoul and Tokyo cannot reach an agreement, each country can designate its own boundary on a temporary basis until agreements are made, according to the convention.

The Foreign Ministry meanwhile did not rule out the possibility of declaring Korea's EEZ with Tokto as the starting point of its EEZ rather than having Ullung Island as the starting point of EEZ.

"As far as I know, the Japanese Government will not involve Tokto in the EEZ negotiations expected soon after Japan's declaration late this week especially after the simmering uproar among Koreans after Ikeda's remarks on Tokto," another official said.

"Any sovereign state tends to announce a broad principle in declaring its EEZ without touching on the specific scope of the boundaries," the official said, and added "such boundaries are usually set through negotiations between the countries concerned."

He also noted that Japan needs to gain international support for its bid to join the United Nations Security Council as a permanent member, and pointed out that Japan's territorial disputes with Korea, China and Russia will remind its neighbors of Japan's aggression during World War II and finally adversely affect Japan's bid for UNSC.

"We, however, are also considering the possibility of Japan setting Tokto as its EEZ starting line," he said, noting that Japan declared its EEZs in the Pacific Ocean with some inhabited rock islands as its starting points.

In that case, Seoul will have to follow suit, making situations worse, he said.

To be prepared for such a possibility, Seoul is considering developing Tokto so the rock island could meet standards, set by the convention although vague, to become a habitable island.

Among the development projects are construction of a wharf, water purification plants and facilities to accommodate tourists.

The Tokyo government was originally pushed by Japanese fishermen to declare its EEZ. The fishermen have insisted that Korean fishing boats tend to violate Japanese waters.

The existing fishing agreements between the two countries stipulate that Korean fishing boats cannot be caught by Japanese maritime police even when they are fishing illegally, a policy Japan consistently demands be changed.

South Korea has maintained that the agreement was initially sought by Japan decades ago when Japan's well-equipped fishing boats caught fish in Korean waters.

The situation is quite the opposite in the case with China as thousands of Chinese fishing vessels encroach upon Korean waters, provoking Korean fishermen.

The Convention on the Law of the Sea stipulates that coastal states control illegal fishing boats, unlike previous international rules in which flag states controlled such boats, which reflects the democratization of the world fishing order.

The emergence of the Tokto issue and Japan's declaration of the EEZ will finally lead to a reorganization of the fishing system in Northeast Asia since China is also expected to declare its own EEZ sooner or later, an official said.

Seoul has been engaging in bilateral negotiations to reach fishing agreements with Tokyo and Beijing for the past several years, although there has not yet been any agreement.

"What we have in mind in the negotiating processes is that the interest of South Korean fishermen should not be undermined by new fishing accords with China and Japan," he said.

ROK Policymakers Await Japan's Decision on EEZ Line

SK1402012496 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Feb 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] South Korea will draw a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) after watching how Japan will deal with the Tokto islets in the East Sea when it decides on its economic zone later this week, officials in Seoul said yesterday.

"We will react properly in response to the stance Tokyo will take," said an official at the Foreign Ministry who requested anonymity.

His remarks seemed to be reflecting South Korea's position that it will separate the issue of drawing a line between Korean and Japanese economic zones from a dispute with Japan over the islets in the waters between the two countries.

South Korea plans to follow Tokyo immediately in announcing a decision to establish an exclusive economic zone.

A South Korean official predicted that Tokyo may not comment on the islets when it announces its exclusive economic zone, probably at a cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday. [passage omitted]

South Korea's ambassador to Tokyo, Kim Tae-chi, suggested Seoul and Tokyo are nearing an agreement to take separate approaches to the EEZ issue and their dispute over Tokto.

He said Japan has promised to give prior notice to South Korea on its decision. Officials from the two sides have been holding working-level consultations on the issue.

Foreign Minister Kong No-myong told a parliamentary committee yesterday afternoon that South Korea will be firm in countering Japan's claim to Tokto and seek to ensure its economic interests in its negotiations with Japan on the exclusive economic zones.

The latest position put forward by Seoul officials was a change from their past strategy for drawing up an economic zone. [passage omitted]

ROK: Japan May Postpone Declaration on EEZ

SK1402013196 Seoul YONHAP in English
0120 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — The Japanese Government is contemplating postponing its plan to set a 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) at a cabinet meeting Friday, in view of the territorial dispute with South Korea over the rocky islet in the sea between the two countries, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

But there will be no change in the government policy of drawing the EEZ from the base line that passes through the rocky islet in question, the mass-circulation national daily remarked.

The government has concluded that declaring the EEZ which includes the islet amidst South Korea's mounting anti-Japanese feelings would only fan the anti-Japanese movement in South Korea, and this is why the government is considering putting off the EEZ declaration in a bid to provide a cooling-off period for the hot territorial dispute with Seoul, it commented.

The government had planned to hold a cabinet meeting Friday to declare an EEZ that includes the islet and discuss holding fisheries talks with South Korea and China, so that it can refer a ratification bill on the UN Law of the Sea and related bills to the Diet (parliament) for action in mid-March.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the Lower House of the Diet Tuesday that he would like to create an environment in which the two countries can have a calm dialogue, rather than rushing to an immediate settlement of the territorial dispute.

He indicated that Japan will continue to claim its sovereignty over the islet.

ROK: Japanese Ship Sighted Near Tokto; Military Drills Announced

OW1402103496 Hong Kong AFP in English
1001 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb 14 (AFP) — South Korea on Wednesday [14 February] sighted a Japanese maritime patrol boat near the disputed Tokdo Islands, and immediately ordered the launching of air and naval drills in the area, police and the Defence Ministry said. A police spokesman told AFP that two urgent fax messages from the Navy had confirmed the presence of the Japanese boat 17 nautical miles west of the hotly disputed islets in the Japan Sea. The Defence Ministry immediately announced that joint air and naval drills would be staged in the area Thursday. "Today 1520 (0620 GMT), 17 miles west of Tokdo Japanese patrol ship. PM-85, spotted by Navy ship 771. Maritime police tracing radar and monitoring," the first urgent message read. "Today 1604 (0704 GMT). Maritime patrol boat confirmed Japanese vessel," the police spokesman quoted the second confirmatory fax as saying. The Defence Ministry said the joint drills by the Navy and Air Force Thursday would involve one Navy destroyer, a Maritime Police helicopter, one Maritime Police boat and four Air Force fighters. During the exercise the South Korean ships would scramble around the Tokdo area in preparation for a "possible territorial intrusion" with the fighters bombing "simulated navy targets." A tense standoff has been building up between Seoul and Tokyo over the islets, known here as Tokdo and in Japan as Takeshima, prompting alarm in Washington, which has appealed for a negotiated solution. The row erupted last week when Tokyo reasserted its claim to Tokdo, midway between the two nations, triggering a furore and angry demonstrations in Seoul, which has a police garrison on the islets. The garrison was beefed up from 26 men to 34 on Tuesday. It was put on alert when the Japanese patrol boat was sighted, Yonhap said. Meanwhile, a YONHAP correspondent on neighbouring Ullung Island, west of Tokdo, said the Japanese boat was sailing northwards along the line (the theoretical midpoint sea line between the two countries) tailed by South Korean boats.

ROK Plans Joint Naval, Air Force Maneuvers Near Tokto

SK1402103396 Seoul YONHAP in English
1027 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 14 (YONHAP) — A joint Navy and Air Force field training exercise will be staged near Tokto, an isolated Korean isle in the East Sea [Sea of Japan], Thursday [15 February], the Defense Ministry reported Wednesday.

The maneuver will be participated by a naval destroyer, a maritime Police speedboat, an anti-submarine helicopter and an Air Force four-fighter flight.

The exercise will be staged in simulated Navy and Air Force attacks on imaginary sea intruders, the ministry said.

ROK Diplomats Discuss Ways To Support Business Activity

SK0902065396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Feb 96 pp 2, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South Korean overseas diplomatic mission chiefs racked their brains to make a wide range of recommendations for supporting business activities abroad during their meeting in Seoul Wednesday.

Ambassador to the United States Pak Kon-u told those present at the meeting he would try to set up branches of the New York-based Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KOCHAM) in major cites across the United States.

He emphasized the need for taking action on possible issues of contention with the United States to prevent them from developing into major trade disputes.

He also called for improving domestic trade regulations and practices to match the standards of advanced countries.

Ambassador to Malaysia Chong Kyong-il recommended the government to lift curbs on South Korean builders' real estate investment to improve their competitiveness abroad, especially in south-east Asian nations.

Ambassador to Egypt Chong Tae-ik indicated South Korea needs to provide loans from its Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) to developing countries in denomination of the dollar or other currencies the borrowers want.

The EDCF loans are currently provided only in denomination of the Korean won.

Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sin Hyo-hun recommended the establishment of a joint commission of government officials and private experts to study ways to promote business opportunities in the Middle East region.

Ambassador to Argentina Cho Ki-song called for more direct investment in development projects in Latin American countries, which he said will help secure a stable supply of mineral resources and agricultural products.

At the meeting, the top diplomats were joined by senior officials from economy-related ministries, who listened to the envoys' recommendations and gave explanation about their ministries' policies.

The meeting was part of an annual conference of South Korean overseas diplomatic mission heads, who will end their five-day session today.

The ambassadors also met in regional groups Tuesday to have discussions with corporate officials on ways to settle difficulties South Korean companies are faced with in doing business abroad.

At the outset of Wednesday's meeting, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic affairs Choe Tae-hwa predicted trade disputes around the world will be more frequent as countries will be engaged in intensifying competition for more market shares.

He put forward some guidelines for South Korea's trade diplomacy under such new international circumstances:

—active participation in the framework of the World Trade Organization and entry into the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD),

—increased economic and trade cooperation with major trading partners such as the United States, Japan, China and European Union members,

—support for South Korean business activities abroad and local governments deals with foreign countries.

ROK Firms Concerned Over Cross-Border Capital Flow Rules

SK0902054396 Seoul YONHAP in English
0204 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) — The Ministry of Finance and Economy (MFE) is preparing to apply for admission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with many of regulations on cross-border capital movement still in place, and the business community is concerned about such a move.

The MFE has reportedly decided to apply for admission to the Paris-based club of advanced economies without changing 54 rules against capital market liberalization, even though the OECD requires that all 148 rules against liberalization be banned as a precondition for membership.

Mexico, which was recently admitted to the OECD, has 41 such rules intact and other OECD member-nations have not yet lifted some 20 rules against free cross-border capital movement.

Among the rules the MEF plans to keep intact are those restricting the inflow of foreign commercial loans and direct corporate investment overseas.

But the OECD requires its member nations to remove, in principle, all restrictions on international cash flow including cross-border capital transactions and investment, except for particular exemptions recognizing the unique economic and financial situations of certain nations.

Under the circumstances, the Federation of Korean Industries and other business organizations are worried that the OECD would probably balk at the MFE's move to keep the 54 rules intact because the move could be viewed as the government's attempt to continue restricting cross-border flow of money, business sources say.

Insofar as existing rules concerning international capital movement are left intact, business corporations could hardly be expected to improve international competitiveness and the nation would certainly be considered closed to the international community, officials of the ministry of trade, industry and energy comment.

Meanwhile, the MFE will formally notify the OECD of its plan to retain the restrictions on cross-border capital movement at the committee on capital movement and invisible trade meeting slated for April in Paris.

Deputy Finance and Economy Minister Sin Myong-ho will head the South Korean delegation to the meeting after attending the capital market committee meeting opening in the French capital Feb. 26.

The approval of these two committees is required, along with that of five other committees, for South Korea to be admitted to the OECD.

ROK Parties Spar Over Issue of Ward Chief's Arrest

SK0902060196 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 9 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling and main opposition parties yesterday traded accusations over the detaining of a local administrator affiliated with the main opposition party.

"His detention clearly shows that the prosecution is launching a biased investigation against our party," said Kim Tae-chung, leader of the main opposition party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP).

In response to the opposition party's attack, the ruling New Korea Party said that the arrest was legitimate law enforcement.

When the prosecution sought the arrest warrant for a Seoul district office head, who is an NCNP member, and his aide on charges of violating the election law, the court turned down the prosecution's request. The two district officials were freed later in the day.

The two, in violation of the election law, allowed a district bulletin to carry a story on donations by an NCNP lawmaker from the district to needy neighbors, the prosecution said.

The NCNP lawmaker, Rep. Yi Kyong-chae, denied the prosecution's charges that he asked the district officials to carry his story on the bulletin.

The district office head is one of the first local administrators elected in last June's local elections, who was detained on charges of violating the law.

"The detention of the administrator and his aide is undoubtedly an oppression against the opposition," Kim Tae-chung said.

Main opposition spokesman Pak Chi-won denounced the prosecution for being unfair in investigating election law violators.

"Our party filed a complaint with the prosecution against a ruling party law-maker on similar suspicions. But the prosecution is apparently doing nothing about it," the spokesman said.

The ruling New Korea Party, however, said that the prosecution upheld justice when it put the opposition party-affiliated district head in custody.

"His detention was not political oppression. Any one, whether he is from the ruling party or the opposition, should be punished if he is found to have violated the law," party Secretary- General Kang Sam-chae said.

With the April general elections only eight weeks away, the government has vowed to deal harshly with any election law violators.

In the same vein, President Kim Yong-sam invited local administrators from across the nation to Chongwadae [presidential offices] last month to warn them against any illegal campaigns.

The main opposition party accused President Kim and the ruling party of using scare tactics in a bid to win the April elections.

Two other opposition parties also attacked the ruling party for defending the detention of the district head.

"Any violation of the election law should be punished. But it should not be abused ahead of the general elections," said Rep. Yi Kyu-taek, spokesman of the opposition Democratic Party.

ROK Ex-Premier Urges End to 'Three-Kim Era' Through Elections

SK0902042896 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) — Former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, who recently joined the ruling New Korea Party, Friday called for an end to the so-called three-Kim era by way of the upcoming elections.

Three Kims refers to President Kim Yong-sam and two opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil, who have dominated South Korea's political landscape for decades.

Speaking at a breakfast debate sponsored by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association, Yi said, "It is right to pursue a path of eliminating regionalism and private party politics. But it is undemocratic to ask specific persons to stay out of the political arena."

Yi then asserted, "I think it would be right, however, for the citizens to break the three-Kim structure and reform the political realities through elections."

Advocating the realization of "predictable politics," Yi, who has a reputation for integrity, cited constitutional rule, clean politics, and professionalism in politics, as prerequisites for such a change.

Yi partially accepted the contention that the April 11 general elections constitute an interim evaluation of the Kim Yong-sam administration, but added, "The ruling camp must place more emphasis on the future-oriented significance of how to preserve and further cement the foundation of reformative politics and national administration."

As for the detention of the Kumchon ward chief in Seoul for an alleged violation of election laws, Yi criticized it as an example of "excessive investigation" by the prosecution.

ROK Prosecution Demands Prison Term for Kim Chong-hwi

SK0902054096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) -- The prosecution demanded a five-year prison term plus a fine of 230 million won for former Chongwadae [presidential offices] National Security Advisor Kim Chong-hwi on bribery charges at a Seoul district court hearing presided over by Judge Kim Yong-il Friday morning.

Senior Public Prosecutor Pak Sang-kil said Kim deserves a stiff sentence because he took bribes from defense contractors in 1992, using his influential position in the government, and then fled overseas when his crime was discovered in 1993.

Kim was charged with having received bribes totaling 230 million from three defense contractors, including Daewoo and Hanjin, in return for his influence for their participation in the Air Force's purchase of Spanish transport planes in July 1992.

ROK: Kim Directs SBA Head To Attend State Meetings

SK0902054196 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam directed the head of the newly-established Small Business Administration [SBA] Friday to participate in state council meetings.

President Kim made the directive after presenting a letter of appointment at Chongwadae [presidential offices] to the administration's chief Yi U-yong and said that the administrator will also attend the economy-related ministers meeting along with the Fair Trade Commission chairman, whose status was recently upgraded to the ministerial level.

"The country's economy will succeed when small enterprises flourish," Kim told the new aministration, adding that the administration must help small businessmen become more self-reliant and more competitive, Presidential Spokesman Yun Yo-chun said.

Kim was quoted by the spokesman as stressing that the administration and the Fair Trade Commission will both play an "axis role" in saving small and medium-sized business firms experiencing various difficulties.

ROK: Democratic Party Opens Internet Home Page

SK0902021096 (Internet) The Digital Chosun Ilbo WWW in English 0745 GMT 8 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Democratic Party on Thursday commenced an Internet home page entry, the first time that a domestic party has done so. The party claims that this is second time that a political party has joined the Internet Asia and the 17th time world-wide.

The party's Internet e-mail address is:

minju@easynet.imige.co.kr and its World Wide Web address is:

http://easynet.imige.co.kr/CyberPol/Minju/welcome.html

Burma

Burma: 142 More MTA Members Surrender in Mong Yawng 8 Feb

BK1002160096 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the MTA [Mong Tai Army] led by U Khun Sa have completely given up the drug business. They have been unconditionally surrendering their weapons to the Defense Services and continuously returning to the legal fold since 5 January.

It has been learned that a total of 142 armed MTA members led by Sai Lwe Kham, battalion commander of the MTA's 208th Battalion, returned to the legal fold, surrendering 92 assorted heavy and small weapons to the responsible Defense Services personnel, at a surrender ceremony held at a sports ground in Mong Yawng in the morning of 8 February. The surrender ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Soe Yi, acting tactical commander of the No. 1 Base Tactical Group of the Eastern Military Command; high-ranking Defense Services officers; Lt. Col. Aung Win, chairman of the Mong Hpayak District Law and Order Restoration Council, and members of the district law and order restoration council; responsible departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and local residents in Mong Yawng.

At the surrender ceremony, Acting Tactical Commander Lt. Col. Soe Yi delivered a welcome speech. Next, U Sai Lwe Kham, on behalf of MTA members, admitted past wrongdoings and apologized to the public. The surrender ceremony ended that morning. After the ceremony, the acting tactical commander and senior Defense Services officers inspected the weapons and ammunition, warmly greeted the surrendered MTA members and provided needed assistance and administration.

Members of the MTA led by U Khun Sa have realized the kind goodwill of the Defense Services and have gained a correct view. As a result they have been returning to the legal fold since 5 January. A total of 13,002 MTA members have returned to the legal fold, unconditionally surrendering 7,702 assorted weapons, and assorted mines and ammunition since 5 January. It has been learned that there are still more MTA members who are to return to the legal fold.

Burma: 70 More MTA Members Surrender in Mong Pan 9 Feb

BK1102153696 Rangoon TV Myanmar Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the MTA [Mong Tai Army] led by U Khun Sa have been continuously returning to the legal fold by surrendering their weapons to the Defense Services unconditionally since 5 January.

It has been learned that a group of 70 MTA members led by Thein Htwan, a brigade political officer of the MTA's 273d Brigade, 79th Battalion, returned to the legal fold, surrendering 36 assorted weapons and three small communications equipment to the responsible Defense Services personnel, in Mong Pan in western part of Salween River, southern Shan State on 9 February.

The surrender ceremony held in Mong Pan was attended by Colonel Thein Nyunt, acting tactical commander of the No.3 Tactical Operation Group, and senior Defense Services officers; responsible departmental personnel, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and local residents in Mong Pan. At the surrender ceremony, Tactical Commander Col. Thein Nyunt gave a welcome speech. The surrender ceremony ended after U Thein Htwan, on behalf of the surrendered MTA members, earnestly apologized for waging the armed struggle against the state in order to continue the drug business and for causing hardship to the public for years, and seeking pardons from the public.

After the ceremony, the tactical commander and senior Defense Services officers inspected the weapons and ammunition, warmly greeted the surrendered MTA members, made arrangements for them to receive food, clothing, and shelter, and then transported them to their home areas by military trucks.

Members of the MTA led by Khun Sa have realized the state's noble and sincere goodwill toward the jungle-based armed groups, have gained a correct view, and have been continuously returning to the legal fold since 5 January. A total of 13,080 MTA members have unconditionally surrendered and returned to the legal fold together with 7,738 assorted heavy and small weapons, and assorted mines and ammunition since 5 January.

Burma: 48 More MTA Members Surrender in Tachilek 10 Feb

BK1402002696 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MTA [Mong Tai Army] members led by U Khun Sa have realized the undertakings of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] in its strive for unity, national reconsolidation, and the perpetuation of national sovereignty and have been continuously returning to the legal fold since 5 January.

A surrender ceremony was held on 10 February morning at Tachilek in eastern Shan State. It has been learned that 48 MTA members led by Company Commander Sai

Pan returned to the legal fold surrendering 17 assorted weapons to responsible Defense Services personnel.

The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Soe Yee, acting tactical commander of the No.1 Tactical Operations Command, Lt. Col. Tin Tun, chairman of Tachilek District Law and Order Restoration Council, military officers, departmental personnel, Union Solidarity and Development Association members, and local populace. Next, Lt. Col. Soe Yee, acting tactical operations commander, delivered a welcome speech. The surrender ceremony ended after U Sai Pan, on behalf of the surrendered MTA members, earnestly apologized for their armed struggle against the state in their drug trade operations, for their wrongdoings that affected the public and also sought pardon. He then pledged to work together with the government for the benefit of the people.

After the ceremony, the tactical commander and the chairman of Tachilek District Law and Order Restoration Council, warmly greeted the MTA members who surrendered, gave them the necessary assistance, and made arrangements to transport them back to their homes.

MTA members led by U Khun Sa have realized the state's noble and sincere goodwill toward the jungle-based armed groups and have been continually returning to the legal fold since 5 January. A total of 13,128 MTA members have already surrendered together with 7,755 assorted heavy and small weapons, and assorted mines and ammunition. It has been learned that more are to return to the legal fold.

Burma: Editorial Urges Public To Support Suu Kyi, NLD

BK1202145296 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 11 Feb 96

[Editorial: "100% Support for the NLD" from October 1995-January 1996 issue of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front's VOICE OF THE PEACOCK journal, Volume 3, No.1]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almost 6 years after the 1990 elections, the picture in Burma remains largely the same. The release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest has proven to be nominal — the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] has in fact placed many subtle (and some not so subtle) restrictions on her.

To most observers the SLORC seems to have no sense of direction. Since they came into power after a bloody crackdown on peaceful demonstrators, they have had one and only one aim: to maintain a permanent hold on power, without any transition to democracy. To justify their rule, they have put forward and defended in the last six months a series of 12 'objectives.' General Khin Nyunt and General Than Shwe have used these objectives as a way of defending the SLORC, knowing that they have no medium- or long-term plans whatsoever.

How long can they keep up this charade? The SLORC boasted of having spent 36 million Kyat [Burmese currency unit] on the elections they held. What is the relevance of the cost of elections whose results were never honoured. The SLORC is essentially boasting about how much public funds it wasted. It is an insult to the country.

The SLORC made similar boasts in a meeting with Yozo Yokota [rapporteur of the United Nations Human Right Commission], reportedly saying that they are using half a million Kyat a day to convene the national convention. It is now more than three years since the opening of the convention on 9 January 1993, though it has not been running continuously. How much public funds have been wasted on what amounts to just another useless public relations stunt, and how much more is the SLORC prepared to spend to achieve its ends? The people of Burma have shown time and again that they cannot be fooled. To continue wasting time, energy and money on things which will ultimately achieve nothing is sheer folly.

General Kyaw Ba, SLORC's Minister for Tourism, recently told a press conference that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burma's independence hero, lacks experience in the country and the historical background of the independence struggle. Given the current political stalemate and SLORC's unwillingness to compromise with the democratic opposition, what are we going to do?

Bearing all this in mind, it is imperative for the youth, students and people of Burma to give complete support to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD [National League for Democracy]. Without this, the SLORC will still have a free hand to continue to plunder the nation. Everyone must seek ways to solve the problems that will be faced.

Let us unite and give complete support to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD.

Burma: ABSDF's Union Day Statement Urges Restoration of Rights

BK1202143996 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 11 Feb 96

[Statement by the All Burma Students' Democratic Front concerning the 49th anniversary of the Union Day issued on 12 February; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] February 12, 1996 is a special day in Burma as it is the 49th anniversary of the signing of the Pang Long Agreement (Union Day), symbol of solidarity of all ethnic groups in Burma, which led to independence from British colonial rule. General Aung San, independence hero of Burma, and almost all ethnic groups signed the treaty, agreeing to a future Federal Union based on equality and mutual understanding. The signing took place at Pang Long Township in Shan State on February 12, 1947. One year later Burma gained independence from the British.

Since the 1962 coup led by Gen. Ne Win, ethnic people have lost their rights to address outstanding problems by political means. SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], the current ruling junta, has continued to deal with ethnic problems by means of intimidation and repression through its sham National convention and temporary ceasefire agreement.

The ABSDF [All Burma Students' Democratic Front] believes that National solidarity and long lasting union can never be constructed on the base of a constitution produced by means of repression and intimidation. Only a constitution founded on equality, mutual understanding and mutual respect can bring peace and lasting union of all the people of Burma.

SLORC is still continuing its puppet show National Convention in order to guarantee the military a leading role in the future politics of Burma, very much against the wishes of the Burmese people. All this is to be achieved with no guarantee for the rights of ethnic minorities.

The ABSDF demands the SLORC to:

— Abolish the sham National Convention,

— Begin dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ethnic leaders in order to bring national reconciliation, democracy and lasting peace to Burma,
— Unconditionally release prominent student leader Min Ko Naing and all political prisoners,
— Cancel all unjust laws.

We call on all ethnic people of Burma to unite and continue their struggle with the spirit of Pang Long in their hearts until the restoration of ethnic rights and democratic rights has been achieved. [signed]Central Leading Committee ABSDF Camp 88

Burma: Tourism Minister Views Foreign Investment, Other Issues

BK1302084696 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English 13 Feb 96 p 5

[Interview with Kyaw Ba, Burmese minister of hotels and tourism, by Stephen Brookes "recently"; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AT: How important is tourism to Myanmar's [Burma's] economy?

KB [Kyaw Ba]: At the moment, it's still small. Tourism brought in US$32 million last year, and this year we expect between US$36 million and US$40 million. That's a small amount if you compare it with what Singapore earned — about US$8 billion. Thailand is earning more than US$6 billion a year, and Malaysia, about US$3.2 billion. So if you compare now, it doesn't look so good. But we're very confident about the future. We're sure we can earn as much as other countries. In the future, tourism will be in second place for earning foreign currency. The biggest earner will be energy.

AT: Can that provide a solid base for growth?

KB: Yes, as it does in those other countries. Even in the United States, tourism is the second largest industry, one of the top three sources of revenue in 39 of the 50 states. It's a leading earner of foreign exchange in more than a hundred other countries.

AT: So how will you get up to the level of Thailand?

KB: We have a long way to go. Our strategy is to open more destinations, and to allow people to stay longer. The longer tourists stay, the more money they'll spend. So we need to make travel here more enjoyable, make better food available and open more places to visit. Whenever there's a meeting of the Cabinet, I tell my Prime Minister that we need to make the tourists happy, and keep them interested. If it is not a problem for (national) security, then we should allow tourists to go wherever they like, all over the country. And we are already doing this.

AT: Who's benefiting from the tourist trade? How much of the revenue goes to the government?

KB: The government gets about 15 percent of the total. There are taxes, and we run tours, and we also have some hotels. But the rest goes to the private sector. The tourism law of 1990 allows the private sector to operate tourist companies, hotels and guide services. And most tourists travel by taxi, so the number of private taxis is increasing.

You know, there's a multiplier effect in tourism. Hotels create jobs, and the employees have more money to spend. So it benefits everybody.

AT: Most of the new hotels seem to be foreign-owned. Is there a lot of foreign investment? Or are local companies putting up hotels, too?

KB: We're encouraging the private sector as well as foreigners to build hotels, but the number of (tourist) arrivals is still very small. Foreign investors are interested, but they're waiting for the timing to be right, especially in areas outside Yangon [Rangoon]. Only about 20 to 30 percent of the people who arrive in Yangon go upcountry.

AT: Are you offering incentives to outside investors?

KB: Yes, especially in the hotel business. Investors get a tax exemption on all the materials they bring in to build a hotel. And for three years after it opens, they have a tax holiday. No taxes at all. And after three years, if they're still losing money, they can apply for tax relief. If they are reinvesting their profits, then they can enjoy a tax holiday for as long as they reinvest. There are 34 projects going on now, most of them 100 percent foreign-owned. Only two companies are joint ventures. And the amount of investment committed is more than now US$1 billion.

AT: How many jobs are being created in Myanmar from the overall tourism industry?

KB: It's hard to say. Jobs are being created in hotels, transportation, tour companies, restaurants — a lot of places. At a hotel like the Summit Parkview (in Yangon), they employ about 500 people; that's two for each room. After we complete the hotel contracts, there will be around 9,000 rooms throughout the country. So if you're going to employ, say, 1.5 people per room, we'll have 14,000 new jobs. That's just the staff for the hotels.

Also, there are temporary workers. About 1,400 people are employed in building the Traders hotel, and there are 32 other projects like that under construction. There are about 800 people employed in the construction of each project, so that's more than 25,000 people.

There are also about 350 private tour agencies now. Each one employs about 20 people. We have bout 2,000 tour guides who we have trained.

AT: How much do jobs in tourism pay?

KB: It depends on whether it is skilled or unskilled work. People employed in the international hotels earn 3,500 to 4,000 kyat (US$28 to US$32) per month; high level people will earn 8,000 to 10,000 kyat per month.

AT: Are young people going into tourism as a career?

KB: Many of the university graduates are interested. Some are going into trading, others into offshore work. They're looking for the best sector, and right now, the hotel and building sectors are some of the most favorable.

AT: What about developing infrastructure? It's still difficult for tourists to get around.

KB: Yes, this is important, and we're now making an effort to upgrade all our infrastructure, airlines, roads, also electricity. As a government, we can't do it alone, so we're inviting the private sector in to develop the road system. And we're developing gas turbines to increase the electrical supply. In a year or two, all the infrastructure will be upgraded.

AT: And you say that new areas are being opened? Are these in places where tourism may be the only industry?

KB: A lot of new areas are being developed. Before, the main destinations from Yangon were Mandalay, Pagan, Taunggyi and, in the south, Ngapali. Now nearly 70 percent of the country has been opened... Also, remote areas are being opened up on the border. So the benefits are evenly spread out, not just in the cities.

AT: What about the negative effects of tourism? Are you concerned about inflation?

KB: We'll be very careful about controlling the negative effects — we need to preserve our heritage. But we're not worried about inflation.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Minister Complains About Hawk Manufacturer's Poor Service

BK1402104596 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 14 Feb 96

[Report by Sreejit Pillai — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuala Lumpur — British Aerospace (BAe), the manufacturer of the air force's 28 Hawk combat aircraft, is slow in replacing faulty parts in the aircraft, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said.

"Parts were delivered, in some cases, 80 days after we requested for them, when it should not take more than two weeks," Syed Hamid said, adding that certain components had to replaced sooner than expected.

"We are also not satisfied with the serviceability of parts by BAe," he said after a test flight on aircraft manufacturer Sikorsky International's Blackhawk military helicopter here yesterday.

Syed Hamid said the air force had been instructed to pursue this matter urgently with BAe.

"We will resolve this as soon as possible, so the jets can be efficiently utilised," Syed Hamid said.

He said only about half of the jets could be flown, while the rest faced problems.

"However, the jets are not grounded, and we will ensure all the Hawks will maintain their airworthiness," he added.

Syed Hamid said the Hawk purchase was made after careful evaluation by experts.

"These jets play an important role in the air force's operational needs.

"But we will make sure any future purchases will be free from these problems," he said.

The jets were bought for RM [Malaysian ringgit] 2.4 billion under a 1988 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Britain, and the first plane arrived here in June 1994.

Malaysia: Sabah Police Detain 6 Suspects for 'Deviationist Teachings'

BK1202104496 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 11 Feb 96 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kota Kinabalu, Sat. — Six men were detained in a joint raid by the Sabah Islamic Affairs Department and the police for alleged involvement in deviationist teachings at a house in Kampung Sekambu Petagas, near here, yesterday.

The six, aged between 20 and 40, would be charged in the Syariah [Islamic law] Court on March 21, the head of the department's investigations unit, Zuldin Hamid, said today.

Zuldin said the six, including the leader of the group allegedly involved in deviationist teachings; had been released on bail.

Malaysia: Article Views Aims of Amending Internal Security Act

BK0802073996 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 8 Feb 96

[Article by V.K. Chin: "Main Aim of ISA Is To Isolate Troublemakers" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Internal Security Act [ISA] is a controversial law. Any legislation which detains people without trial is always unpopular. Foreign governments as well as local groups have accused the Government of being undemocratic because of it.

The Government has often spoken of the need to amend the ISA to make it more flexible and hopefully more acceptable. This is finally being done but judging from some of the reaction, it is unlikely to satisfy the critics or those who have felt its full weight.

This is an issue which the two opposing parties will never agree on. The Government wants it to be amended but the groups, mainly from the opposition parties, which are against it would be happy with nothing short of its repeal.

Such a draconian law should of course have no place in a normal and civilised society which is homogeneous. It goes against the grain of the principles of individual freedom and basic human rights.

But in multi-racial and multi-religious societies where communal harmony and religious tolerance are paramount to peace and stability, there may be a need for such a law.

This is more so where politicians are fond of using race and religion and other sensitive issues to win votes with total disregard as to whether their words and actions will lead to chaos.

As a plural society, the Government is well aware of the dangers of any racial discord. The nation has already experienced one serious incident in 1969 and the Government is determined to prevent any more such riots.

The people, too, expect a popularly-elected government to do its part by ensuring that there is understanding and tolerance in all areas so that they can continue to enjoy the present economic development.

If the people feel that the Government has gone beyond its mandate, they can always replace it with another party. The fact that they have regularly voted the Barisan Nasional [National Front] into power reflects their preference.

The present Act is aimed specifically at dealing with the communists, their sympathisers and other anti-national elements. Now that the communist threat has been removed, the Act should be used to deal with other dangers to the nation's security.

Under the proposed amendments, the Government is to specify the violations committed instead of being general in nature. They include espionage, inciting race and religious hatred, economic sabotage and falsifying of identification and travel papers.

Whatever the proposals, two things must be borne in mind. The Government must be armed with the authority to take whatever action necessary to deal with trouble-makers from any quarter.

The other is that there must be no abuse when using the Act. This is very important as the Government must show that the action taken is solely to maintain national security and stability.

But the main purpose of the Act is to isolate the troublemakers from their fellow citizens and to place them in an environment where they cannot cause mischief which will bring grief not only to their victims but the country as a whole.

Malaysia: Official Estimates 200,000 Drug Addicts Nationally

BK1002094696 Kuala Lumpur THE STAR in English 10 Feb 96

[Report by Leslie Lau — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob said yesterday that efforts to check drug abuse in the country have failed and pinpointed this to poor after- care of addicts who have been rehabilitated.

He defended the country's drug rehabilitation programme, saying the failure was due to implementation and not the programme itself.

"If implemented properly, our regimented, rough-and-tough rehabilitation system will benefit the addicts.

"I feel ashamed that I have been deputy home minister for 10 years and Pemadam [Malaysian Association for the Prevention of Drug Abuse] president for eight years and the drug problem has still not been controlled," he said at a Pemadam Anti-Drug Abuse Council meeting.

The meeting, the fourth so far, was opened to the press for the first time.

Megat Junid said that there were now 200,000 drug addicts and they also contributed to the rising number of AIDS cases.

"There are about 25,000 hard-core addicts and about 30 per cent of them are HIV-positive," he said.

Megat Junid was responding to Prisons director-general Datuk Zaman Khan, who said that the nation had failed in its war against drug abuse.

Zaman said the reason for the failure was because "after-care is zero."

"We will fail as long as we don't stress on after-care. Nothing has been done to encourage more after-care programmes because everybody is busy politicking," said Zaman.

Agreeing with Zaman, Megat Junid said more emphasis on after-care and monitoring of former addicts would help fight the war against drugs.

He said more volunteer organisations were needed to organise after-care programmes for rehabilitated addicts.

"We need about 100 after-care centres but there are only 45 now," he said.

He added that RM [Malaysian ringgit] 120 million had been allocated to build more rehabilitation centres and to improve existing facilities.

"We want all the centres to have the same standards as hospitals so that the environment is suitable for the recovery of addicts," he said.

Megat Junid said the National Drug Council, approved recently by the Cabinet and to be chaired by the home minister or his deputy, would also monitor and plan drug enforcement and rehabilitation activities and preventive education.

The National Narcotics Agency, a department within the police force, will also come under the council.

The council, whose members include the Inspector-General of Police, the Home Ministry Secretary-General and the Welfare Director-General, will meet every month to monitor the situation.

"I hope that by the year 2000, we will finally see a reduction in drug cases," said Megat Junid.

Singapore

Singapore: UK Admiral: No More Navy in Southeast Asia After 1997

BK1002080096 Singapore Radio Corporation of Singapore in English 1000 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Britain's naval forces will not be based in Southeast Asia after it pulls out of Hong Kong in 1997, but Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Navy Fleet Jonathan Todd said Britain still intends to play a major role in the area in view of tension, like the China-Taiwan crisis.

Vice Admiral Todd said there will be short-time deployment in the area with Singapore seeing an increase in visiting British naval ships. He said several ships will be visiting Southeast Asia regularly as part of the Five-Power Defense Arrangement. Adm. Todd is in Singapore to meet senior Mindef [Ministry of Defense] and government officials.

Cambodia

Cambodia: Battambang Peasants Object to 'Deceitful' U.S. Reports

BK1202043196 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 Feb 96

["Article" from "people in Battambang Province"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After hearing the deceitful reports carried by the propaganda apparatus of the United States — the arch criminal warmonger — and its out-and-out lackeys that slandered and belittled the struggle waged by the impoverished people and peasants in Battambang Province, our radio received an article from the fraternal people in Battambang Province. Here is the article that the people asked us to broadcast on our radio.

1. We do not want to smear ourselves by replying to this (?reporter) (Chun Sakkada) — the out-and-out lackey of the U.S. propaganda machine. But we must make things clear on this matter to prevent them insulting our poor peasantry and the struggle waged by the impoverished peasants just as they please.

2. They have scorned our impoverished peasants, likening them to dirt. They termed our impoverished people and peasants, who have risen up to struggle to defend their lives and their wives, children, and families, as hooligans and ruffians.

We, the impoverished peasants, are furious. We definitely cannot let them look down upon us this way any longer. They, the communist Vietnamese, the alliance, and the two heads, have reviled not only our impoverished peasants in Battambang, but our entire impoverished peasantry class, likening it to animal. They have used, killed, recruited, and trampled upon our peasants at will for the past 17 years and more, and they are continuing to trample upon our peasants as they please. Can they be allowed to continue trampling upon our impoverished peasants at will? The anger of our impoverished peasants comprises a national and racial hatred and a class hatred that is seething in the extreme.

3. The impoverished people and peasants enjoy a noble, honorable status and have made lofty contributions to the Cambodian nation and race. When the communist Vietnamese enemy invaded and occupied Cambodia, who strove to defend the nation and people? In essence, it was the impoverished peasants. Without the willingness of the forces of the impoverished peasants to go through all that hardship in their decisive struggle, Cambodia would have been swallowed up by communist Vietnam.

This is history. No one can distort nor belittle it. This historic fact has already been inscribed on the worthy pages of history.

Where was (Chun Sakkada) then? He was eating Vietnamese feces. Now he is serving as an out-and-out lackey and cheap tool of the United States — the arch war criminal. They themselves, including Ieng Muli and Siang Lapresse, should be called the hooligans and ruffians. These elements have sold themselves out cheaply. They have no human nobility nor honor. They do not know what it means to struggle. This is because they have all along served others to kill their own nation and people. They have no independent spirit.

Therefore, it is very clear which people have been bought out cheaply.

As for the impoverished people and peasants, they only need water and land and want to rely on their own strength. They do not want to become anyone's slaves. These two sets of characters are totally different.

4. Question: Why has their boss — the United States — hastily launched this psychological warfare by belittling the struggle waged by the impoverished people and peasants?

Answer: It is because they are afraid of the forces of the impoverished peasants who opposed and fought against them and caused them to flee in great shame in their first aggression against Cambodia, and who are presently inflicting heavy defeats on communist Vietnam, the alliance, and the two heads — their lackeys. All these elements are heading toward total defeat.

Long live the forces of the impoverished peasantry and the impoverished peasants who have risen up to fight against the old and new enemy and its lackeys of all stripes!

Rise up the fraternal impoverished peasants! Continue to rise up and struggle in line with our impoverished peasantry's national hatred, racial hatred, and class hatred so as to finish off the enemy who is trying to kill our nation!

Cambodia: Only One Co-Interior Minister Invited for SRV Talks

BK1302082096 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 9-22 Feb 96 p 5

[Report by Jason Barber]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Co-Interior Minister Sar Kheng will visit Vietnam to soothe growing border tensions, following an invitation that was not extended to his FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] counterpart, Yu Hokkri.

Hokkri confirmed this week that the Vietnamese "look like they have invited [only] Sar Kheng," and that he would probably not accompany Kheng.

"One of us should be enough," he said, adding that he had not discussed the matter with Kheng.

Hokkri has been supportive of First Prime Minister and FUNCINPEC leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh's complaints of land-grabbing by the Vietnamese, while Kheng's Cambodian People's Party has been notably quiet on the matter.

The invitation for Kheng to visit Vietnam to discuss border disputes with Cambodia was made during a Feb 1 meeting with Vietnamese ambassador in Phnom Penh, Tran Huy Chuong.

It followed a fresh allegation by Ranariddh of Vietnamese provocation on the border with Cambodia .

Ranariddh, speaking Jan 26, said that 15 Cambodian policemen had been ambushed on Cambodian soil in Svay Rieng province by Vietnamese troops the day before. He gave no other details.

Ranariddh stressed that Cambodia was committed to resolving the problem peacefully, though some 200 Ministry of Interior police were reportedly sent to the area to monitor the border.

Vietnam bluntly dismissed Ranariddh's comments, issuing a Jan 30 statement saying that: "recently there was not any tension along the border between Vietnam and Cambodia and the information that Vietnam had detained Cambodian police in Svay Rieng province was completely unfounded."

Hokkri, however, insisted the incident had occurred.

"The Vietnamese deny this, but it is fact. We don't lie.." he said, adding that the incident had happened near Dong village of Svay Rieng.

Vietnam is known to have recently advanced its border checkpoint some 880 m across a contested 1000 m de facto "no-man's land" near Dong, in one incident Ranariddh has said constitutes an invasion of Cambodian soil.

Hokkri said the Jan 25 confrontation occurred on that disputed land. No shots were fired during the incident, he said.

There were four places in Svay Rieng where Vietnamese encroachments were alleged, he said. Dong was the main "hot spot."

Kheng and Ambassador Tran were not available for comment, but Ministry officials said Kheng would likely visit Vietnam in March.

Cambodia: Paper Cites Hun Sen on ASEAN Membership

BK1202111696 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 11 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Dararit]

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to a question by local reporters whether Cambodia has fulfilled a sufficient number of conditions to become a full-fledged ASEAN member, Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, clearly affirmed that if Cambodia is unable to fulfill all the conditions, we will not join. It is true that there are difficulties, but we are determined to overcome them. We have already made the political decision to join ASEAN as the eighth member. What we want is to become ASEAN's eighth member in 1997. This can, therefore, form the basis of our preparation. It is not a very strong basis, but we can proceed. This is what we have, and the situation is favorable to us.

Samdech Hun Sen said this on the morning of 9 February at the Chamka Mon government palace after receiving the delegations of seven directors general from the foreign ministries of ASEAN's seven member countries led by Rahard Jo Jamtomo, ASEAN director general, who arrived in Cambodia on 7 February to make an inspection and to assist Cambodia to become a full-fledged ASEAN member. At this meeting Samdech Hun Sen said that Cambodia had already made a strategic decision to join ASEAN as the eighth member. We would like to thank the seven member countries for showing us their experiences and guiding Cambodia, the new ASEAN observer. Samdech Hun Sen further said that we are very happy to follow the 18th ASEAN meeting in Bangkok because earlier in Southeast Asia we were divided into two opposing camps; however, now we are united under the same roof. It is a source of satisfaction for all of us that we will be members of the same association. Samdech Hun Sen also informed the guests that as far as Cambodia is concerned, we are very clear that Cambodia's economic potential lies in the agriculture sector. This is because in the immediate future we cannot aspire to become a major power or an industrialized country. However, what we do have are land and water, which are agricultural resources; we therefore want to remind ASEAN countries, once Cambodia become a full-fledged ASEAN member, to view this within the framework of the ASEAN economy.

On the same occasion, Rahard Jo Jamtomo said that ASEAN's 10th meeting in Bangkok was attended by 10 countries in the region to set up a common movement. This clearly demonstrated regional cooperation. Rahard Jo Jamtomo also said that the aims of our delegation's current visit to Cambodia is to show our experiences and the path Cambodia has to take before becoming a full-fledged ASEAN member and to provide Cambodia with what the country is lacking in its preparations for membership.

It should be recalled that on the morning of 8 February the delegation from the seven ASEAN directors general of the foreign ministries of the seven ASEAN member countries, with the participation of one member from the ASEAN Secretariat, met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. The meeting was attended by institutions from all government ministries.

Opening the meeting Foreign Minister Ing Huot pointed out that the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] is ready to apply for full ASEAN membership and that the RGC will continue its foreign policy of neutrality, friendship, and active multilateral cooperation with all countries the world over based on mutual interest and mutual respect for one another's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Cambodia has found its future in its association with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

This meeting will last for the whole day with addresses by directors general of the seven ASEAN countries, focusing on significant features such as the experiences of the seven ASEAN national secretariats, the necessary requirements before becoming a full-fledged member, and Cambodia's role, duty, and responsibility once the country becomes a full-fledged ASEAN member.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Minister on SRV 'Trick'

BK1102134996 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 10 Feb 96

[Unidentified station correspondent's interview with Chan Youran, "deputy prime minister, mister of foreign affairs, and minister for the protection of national culture, literature, and customs"; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Greetings Your Excellency. Recently the two-headed government announced that its regime respects the five-point peaceful coexistence in its foreign relations. What is your view?

[Chan Youran] Thank you for this question. I think this is another trick of communist Vietnam and the alliance to restore the image of their lackey, the two-headed government, in preparation for the 1998 election.

Their goal is to dupe others into believing that Cambodia, under the control of communist Vietnam and its puppets, is an independent state with sovereignty and territorial integrity like other independent countries. It is also designed to show that Cambodia, under the control of communist Vietnam and its puppets, has a foreign policy based on the five-point principle of peaceful coexistence and that its relations with Vietnamese are also based on this principle.

This is just a deceitful trick; no one will be duped by this blatant trick.

[Correspondent] What is the significance of the five-point peaceful coexistence?

[Chan Youran] Here it is: 1) respect for one another's sovereignty and territorial integrity; 2) no aggression against one another; 3) no interference in each other's internal affairs; 4) equality and mutual interest; and 5) peaceful coexistence principle.

[Correspondent] Does communist Vietnam respect these principles in its current relations with Cambodia?

[Chan Youran] No, it does not. Vietnam has most savagely trampled on the principle of international law, the UN Charter, and the October 1991 Paris agreement. Since December 1978, communist Vietnam has been waging an aggressive war to exterminate our Cambodian race. It has trampled on and violated the independence, sovereignty, national union, peace, neutrality, and territorial integrity of our Cambodian land.

The UN General Assembly 13 times has denounced and adopted measures annually, from 1979 to 1991, demanding that communist Vietnam withdraw from Cambodia. The Paris agreement clearly stipulates the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. However, communist Vietnam did not respect and did not implement these measures. On the contrary, it has kept in power the puppet regime it established in 1979 in Cambodia in order to use this as a tool to continue waging its war of aggression to kill the Cambodian nation and people. It continues to bring ethnic

Vietnamese into Cambodia to annex the country; there are so far over 4 million Vietnamese. This is the true situation in Cambodia. Our nation and people and the international community are all aware of this.

[Correspondent] Why did communist Vietnam not respect the five- point peaceful coexistence in its relations with Cambodia?

[Chan Youran] Please recall that the Communist Party of Vietnam and the late Ho Chi Minh adopted the strategy of a communist Vietnam's Indochinese federation in 1930 to annex Cambodia and turn it into a second Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam]. Communist Vietnamese leaders have since been implementing this strategy. They have waged a military, demographic, and social war in Cambodia in order to achieve this goal.

[Correspondent] Can communist Vietnam achieve this strategy in Cambodia?

[Chan Youran] No. Our entire nation and people, the king, political personalities, students, pupils, reporters, and all our compatriots from all walks of life nationwide are valiantly and courageously fighting to save, defend, and safeguard our nation and race. All of us will absolutely not allow Cambodia to be turned into a second Kampuchea Kraom.

This highly heroic struggle is plunging the two-headed traitors, war instrument of communist Vietnam, into a seriously deteriorating situation. They are being defeated on the military and political fronts; their economy is in shambles; and so on.

The deceitful trick of communist Vietnam and the alliance to order the two-headed government to fly the banners of deceitful patriotism and deceitful five-point peaceful coexistence cannot improve the image and this losing situation.

[Chan Youran continues] I would like to stress that the goals of the struggle of our nation and people and the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation are:

1. To quickly end the war of the communist Vietnamese aggressors and the two-headed government; and

2. To quickly end the regime of communist Vietnam with Hun Sen as the ringleader.

Only by stopping the two-headed government, the war instrument of communist Vietnam, can the nation and people achieve national reconciliation and have a national government to solve all the big and small problems of our nation and people. This includes the issues of over 4 million ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia, and the tens of thousands of square kilometers of territory in eastern Cambodia that have been annexed by communist Vietnam since 1979 through the establishment of residence, and through agreements and treaties it prepared and had signed by its puppets.

[Correspondent] In its political platform the Cambodian National Union Party [CNUP] also stipulates this five-point peaceful coexistence principle. What does this mean?

[Chan Youran] It means that the five-point peaceful coexistence principle, as mentioned earlier, is one of the features of the foreign policy of our CNUP. The significance of the CNUP foreign policy is this. The political platform states that:

1. Cambodia is independent, sovereign, unified, peaceful, neutral, and nonaligned.

2. No foreign military bases are allowed on Cambodian territory and no Cambodian troops are allowed in foreign territory;

3. Respect for the UN Charter, the nonaligned principle, and the five-point peaceful coexistence;

4. Respect for international law and for treaties and international agreements Cambodia has signed, except those signed in the period since March 1970, particularly during Vietnam's aggression and occupation of Cambodia.

5. Regarding agreements and various treaties signed by the regime propped up by the communist Vietnamese aggressors' regime with the Vietnamese aggressors and other countries, these will be considered null and void, because they are in full violation of international law and Cambodia's sovereignty.

The CNUP has also stated that the division of Cambodia's land and maritime borders by the communist Vietnamese aggressors, either unilaterally or with their puppets, violates Cambodia's territorial integrity. Therefore, this should be considered null and void. Cambodia's territorial integrity should be restored in accordance with official maps from 1970.

Furthermore, this political platform also stipulates the CNUP's policy toward other countries by stressing that Cambodia is open to relations, and economic, trade, cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation, and other fields with countries the world over based on the five-point peaceful coexistence principle, particularly on the principle of mutual respect and mutual interest.

Cambodia: China Denies Supplying Weapons to Khmer Rouge Rebels

BK1102114596 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] China has denied that it has provided weapons to Khmer Rouge rebels in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The denial was made after the Khmer Royal Armed Forces [KRAF] of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] reported that equipped with modern Chinese weapons, the Khmer Rouge rebels put up a fierce resistance. The spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said that China has not provided weapons to the Khmer Rouge rebels since the signing of the Cambodian peace agreement five years ago.

Last week a number of RGC officers said that the RGC's battle to regain control of Pailin was met with stiff resistance from the Khmer Rouge rebels who were equipped with plenty of modern weapons that were made in China, including rocket launchers, rifles, and large amounts of ammunition.

Cambodia: Khmer Rouge Claims Continued Control of Hill 25

BK1002100996 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] On 5 February, [Generals] Prum Samen and Prum Moranak painstakingly mustered and smashed the 12th division's and 3d division's routed, demoralized troops who had fled to Dong Aranh with three tanks to retake Hill 25 on the Sisophon-Poipet battlefield. Shortly after fleeing, the routed troops were attacked and surrounded by our combatants, who intercepted them from behind by blocking their water and fuel supply lines.

We also attacked enemy troops at the front by cutting them into sections in our fields of mines and punji stakes and by sniping and detonating mines, causing enemy soldiers to disperse in different directions. We killed 30 enemy ground troops at the site, wounded 50, and forced the others to run away, leaving the three tanks behind. As it was speeding away, one of the tanks exploded into flames when it ran over one of our anti-tank mines. As for the other two, they retreated and hid themselves at the Sangke Yang bridge.

We are still occupying Hill 25 at this point.

Cambodia: Government Said To Renew Offensive Against Khmer Rouge

BK1302061696 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 12-13 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ch.S.R.]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a three-day pause, the government army has renewed its push against the Khmer Rouge rebels in their Pailin stronghold in what is seen as the largest campaign in the region.

According to an Army officer who requested anonymity, government troops are now hotly engaging the rebels near Sandek Hill, south of Svay Sar and about 54 km southwest of Battambang town. Additional convoys of government soldiers with artillery and tanks have been sent to this height, where the fighting is most intense.

In Battambang town, on the night of 7 February Khmer Rouge terrorists planted two homemade bombs outside the eastern and northern gates of the provincial hospital. Two explosions were triggered but no damage was done. The provincial police said the aim was merely to disturb the city's tranquility to serve the rebels' purposes.

The same officer revealed that the Khmer Rouge has seven tanks in the area. We set one of their tanks ablaze and seized 100 100 mm shells on the morning of 8 February. The Khmer Rouge rebels attempted to counter our advance by sending troops from Pursat and Koh Kong and weapons from their caches against us under the command of Ta Mok. "The Khmer Rouge are using new weapons from China," he said, adding that these arms were shipped in from Thailand. He said that the water at the front was undrinkable because it had been poisoned by the Khmer Rouge.

The officer said Army commanders refuse to let reporters go beyond kilometer marker 38 because fighting is raging at the front.

According to Buddhist monks from Snoeng Temple in Banan District, 21 dead government soldiers were cremated at the monastery following two weeks of intense fighting.

All 200 beds at the military hospital in Battambang town are occupied by wounded soldiers. Some wounded have been sent to the civilian hospital and others have been flown back to Phnom Penh.

Doctors say the hospitals are full of soldiers injured by exploding shells and landmines. They note that because food and medical supplies are much better than last year, the soldiers have more discipline now.

A medical officer with the rank of colonel said that 30 percent of the sick government soldiers are suffering from malaria.

Cambodia: Rebel Supreme Command Extols Fighters for Victories

BK1002102996 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 9 Feb 96

[Communique issued by the Supreme Command of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on 9 February; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Communique:

1. The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] combatants destroyed two two-headed T-55 tanks and captured another at Phnum Sandek and Phnum Sloek Hills on the route 10 battlefield at 1700 on 8 February.

2. The NADK Supreme Command wishes to issue this commendation to and bestow a high-class reward on the heroic National Army combatants, cadres, and units, which have successfully accomplished their noble task, and for their heroism and love for the nation and people.

3. Availing itself of this occasion, the Supreme Command also wishes to convey the warmest congratulations for heroism to the NADK combatants, cadres, and units that have successfully intercepted enemy troops from behind in the Phnum Sandek area, killing 17 enemy soldiers, wounding 20, and forcing the others to beat a hasty retreat.

The NADK Supreme Command.

9 February 1996.

Cambodia: Sam Rangsi Views Future Elections, Other Issues

BK1202025496 Bangkok ASIA TIMES in English 12 Feb 96 p 4

[Interview with Sam Rangsi, former Cambodian finance minister and founder of the Khmer Nation Party, by ASIA TIMES consulting editor Stephen Vines in Bangkok on 9 February]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Vines] How dangerous is it for you to be an opposition leader?

[Rangsi] In Cambodia life is dangerous and political life is very dangerous. People who start opposition parties get shot, they get killed or they get put into prison. But I think times have changed a little bit because Cambodia is under international scrutiny. With the end of the Cold War more and more countries are advocating human rights etc. So I think that eventually democracy will prevail.

[Vines] How soon will that happen?

[Rangsi] If the next election in 1998 is organized properly, if it proves to be really free and really fair, we will be back on the right track. I think the trend towards development will also lead to more democracy. You cannot be part of the free world, enjoying economic development without, little by little, having democratic values moving at the same time. For a big country like China it will take some time but Cambodia is a very small, homogeneous country. So I think the present leadership is fighting a rearguard battle, they cannot resist this worldwide trend to democracy. I think the next country to be cleared of a communist-type regime will be Cambodia.

[Vines] You have described Cambodia as a "terrorist state", so how could you have a free election in a terrorist state?

[Rangsi] It is a terrorist state. During the last election in 1993, 120 FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] (the royalist party) activists were killed. This is officially recorded. The other opposition party, the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party incurred 47 people killed. Officially that is, actually it was more. There have been no investigations into these assassinations. In spite of this climate of fear and assassinations the UN-organized elections took place and it led to an acceptable result, as Mr (Yashuso) Akashi (the former head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia) put it, those elections were not irreproachable but they were acceptable, so I hope this time also the elections will be acceptable, even though it's difficult to expect they will be irreproachable.

[Vines] There were 20,000 UN blue berets there last time. I don't think there will be that number there this time.

[Rangsi] No, but I would ask as many international electoral observers as possible to come, even for a short time, to come to some strategic locations. It will help a lot. Compared to the US$3 billion spent for the last election, the necessary expense is much less. Otherwise this election is meaningless.

[Vines] You have called on donor countries to put pressure on Cambodia. Does this mean they should withdraw assistance?

[Rangsi] Not directly, you do not need to withdraw, to reduce, to suspend aid, only to use the language of firmness would be enough. Sometimes the prospect is enough to bring about results. But I think through international assistance the donor countries do have a strong leverage.

[Vines] But don't you have a sense now that the international community is fed up with Cambodia, a sense that the Cambodians should get on with it themselves?

[Rangsi] That is why this is the last chance. The Cambodian people understand that very well. In 1993 they were cheated by the winning party in the election. The majority of the people now feel very frustrated because the electoral promises put forward by the winning party have not been fulfilled. They realize these promises were lies, we have been cheated, we have been fooled once in 1993, this time we will be very careful. They realize the international community will be very fed up with Cambodia if, after 1998, everything goes very badly. The Cambodian people realize this and they know it's the last, last chance for the country to recover.

[Vines] FUNCINPEC clearly won the election but Hun Sen's (Cambodian People's Party) appears to be clearly running the country. Can you explain how this happened?

[Rangsi] In one word it is corruption. The communists are very clever in making cosmetic changes. When the communists lose power, as they did in the Eastern European countries, they had a strategy. One element of the strategy is to form coalition governments. They let non-communists hold sensitive ministries, such as the economic portfolio, where they become unpopular, whereas the communists seek control of the real centers of power — defense, police, the Ministry of the Interior etc. The communists mix the clean water with the dirty water and so the coalition government gets dirty, the people say you are all liars, they become cynical, they lose all hope.

I don't want anybody to have to choose between bread and freedom. The communists say you have to have bread, or rice, first and freedom will come later. We have to fight for both at the same time. Countries who pretend that you have to have bread first and freedom later end up having neither.

[Vines] Were not most of the tendencies you describe evident during the period you were in government yourself?

[Rangsi] Yes, but they placed the hope on the non-communists and what I was trying to say was that the communists eliminate their opponents by two means. At the grass-roots level they intimidate, threaten and even kill, so at the lowest level people are frightened but at the top level they buy, they give the possibility to sign contracts and have a unique opportunity to get money. They become a prisoner of Hun Sen to get money and so they stick together forever. Hun Sen blackmails them, buys their conscience. It's like killing them, not killing physically, but killing their conscience, so there is no opposition left.

To form an opposition in Cambodia you have to be not afraid of physical elimination and you must preserve your conscience.

[Vines] Can you see any circumstances at all in which you would form a tactical alliance with the Khmer Rouge?

[Rangsi] No. I have everything to lose and nothing to gain. Anyway it is totally contrary to my philosophy, my culture, my belief, my ethics. I want to mobilize all the democratic and liberal forces in the country. Why should I bother to get in touch or form an alliance with the Khmer Rouge?

[Vines] The government of Cambodia says that the reason you exist is because you have foreign backing.

[Rangsi] We spend about US$20,000 per month for the whole country. This is financed by the Cambodian Diaspora. This is very small compared with the hundreds of millions of [dollars in] bribery. As a former finance minister I know the amount which is diverted from the state coffers to individual pockets. It's hundreds of millions of dollars, those individual keep half for themselves and give half to their parties. They have far greater means than us. Most of our workers work for nothing, they do not expect any reward.

[Vines] If the elections are not free and not, as you say, fair, presumably your party would have no opportunity to succeed, what will you do?

[Rangsi] We will not run. The ruling coalition government will get 99.9 percent of the vote, as was very common in communist countries before and the world will judge how meaningless this election is.

Cambodia: Article Comments on Successors to Cambodian Throne

BK1402094196 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 14 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[Article by Meanop]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Chinese prophet reportedly foretold that His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, the famous king of the Cambodian people, would die at the age of 74. The prediction, which has profoundly shocked the people, has also made them wonder who the king's successor is and whether he is judicious and can be revered as King Sihanouk.

Although the king has no power within the government, he has, all the same, a vitally important role to play. Why? Because the lofty king, who is sacred like the gods, should always remain in the heart of the people.

King Norodom Sihanouk, famous for his ability to defend the country and prevent it from becoming involved in the Indochinese war in the 1960's, was toppled by the Lon Nol regime in 1970.

Following the civil war and the end of the Khmer Rouge rule, King Sihanouk has helped unify the country in the 1990's.

Despite his hypertension, diabetes, and cancer, the king, who is now 73, is expected, contrary to the prophecy, to enjoy a long life. For a destiny is a destiny and a prophecy is only a superstitious belief. For this reason, predictions about the king's successor have become widespread.

Although an assumption can be incorrect, past events can be used as a basis for appointing a prince who will have the privilege of ascending to the throne in the future.

In January 1996, King Sihanouk elevated his wife, Norodom Monineat Sihanouk, to the rank of "royal supreme wife," which is a high rank that would enable her to acquire the status of "queen," which is not defined in the 1993 constitution. Some people think that King Sihanouk might launch a "trial balloon." The royal supreme wife, Norodom Monineat Sihanouk, who has been married to King Norodom Sihanouk since 1952, has been widely respected by the people.

Shortly after the elevation, King Norodom Sihanouk issued a message stating that "the royal supreme wife cannot ascend the throne," because she is merely a commoner and because it is also prohibited by the constitution.

The king's statement clearly indicates that it is impossible for his wife to be his successor to the throne.

Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, who is one of the king's sons, is the most promising candidate for the Kingdom of Cambodia's highest position.

The prince, 53, is the leader of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party and a co-prime minister of Cambodia. By the end of this month, Prince Ranariddh will quit politics for two months in order to become a Buddhist monk at Vat Than Monastery [in Phnom Penh], where Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut and he performed a merit-making ceremony in 1995. While in the monkhood, he will stay away from politics, and his ordainment will in effect lead him closer to assuming the highest position in the monarchic regime.

It has been noted that the prince krompreah is the most favored candidate for becoming king after the death of his father.

In a recent audience with foreign guests, King Norodom Sihanouk said he expected that the prince krompreah would succeed him as king.

Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh is one of the seven members of the Royal Council of the Throne, which is defined in the constitution. The throne council chooses a new king within seven days following the death of the king. This duty is, however, subject to another law. It is not yet known whether the draft of the law has already been completed.

In November 1995, King Norodom Sihanouk said he would abdicate should there be an appropriate candidate (one of his sons who is eligible to be king). The king's statement triggered extensive comment on the issue.

It is impossible for Prince Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut, who is 45 and the king's younger brother, to become king after being accused of attempting to assassinate Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. It was reported that the prince kromkhun intended to return to Cambodia to face a court trial on 15 February and that King Sihanouk was furious because the prince's intention ran counter to the promise he had made to him.

Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, who is now 51 and living in exile abroad, is no longer a favorable candidate since the abortive coup d'etat he led in July 1994.

As for 42-year-old Prince Norodom Norindrapong — a son of King Norodom Sihanouk and Royal Supreme Wife Norodom Monineat Sihanouk and a former supporter of [Khmer Rouge Leader] Pol Pot — who is now receiving medical treatment in China, he is completely out of the question.

Prince Kromkhun Sihamoni, who is 43 and was a ballet teacher, used to say that he had no intention whatsoever of becoming king.

All in all, who is the most favored and most appropriate prince to succeed the king?

Although the Royal Council of the Throne is empowered to choose the new king, the people already have in mind one who is suitable to be their sacred king.

Indonesia

Indonesia: ICRC Drops 'Open Letter' for Irian Jaya Kidnappers

BK1002125996 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Wamena, KOMPAS — Efforts have resumed to secure the release of 13 hostages held by a group of the security disturbance movement [official name of the OPM or Free Papua Movement] led by Kelly Kwalik. A team of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] on Friday (9 February) circulated hundreds of copies of an open letter in nine villages situated along the Mapenduma-Jila route. The copies of the open letter were dropped by an Airfas helicopter flying the ICRC flag.

Meanwhile, Albert Hasibuan and Asmara Nababan from the National Commission on Human Rights arrived in Jayapura yesterday morning. They immediately called on Major General Dunija, commander of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command, and Jayapura Bishop Herman Munninghoff.

According to Hasibuan, the commander expressed his pleasure with the involvement of the National Commission on Human Rights in the efforts. The commander has given the team the freedom to go anywhere and meet anyone in the province. [passage omitted]

Open Letter

The one-page letter contains a five-paragraph message for Kelly. The message says that the ICRC has learned of Kelly's intention to meet ICRC officials and expressed its willingness to meet him. The letter was signed by Henry Fournier (ICRC chief delegate for Southeast Asia) who has his office in Jakarta.

"By circulating the message, we hope that we will be able to meet Kelly. We want to know whether Kelly really wants to meet us. In essence, we want to know the problems Kelly faces and what we can do to help them," Fournier told KOMPAS and PIKIRAN RAKYAT in Wamena yesterday. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: ICRC Circulates 'Open Letter' to Kidnappers for 2d Time

BK1102114696 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Wamena, KOMPAS — A team from the National Commission on Human Rights comprising of Albert Hasibuan and Asmara Nababan arrived in Wamena on Saturday morning, 10 February, and later that day went to Mapenduma village. There they met churchman Andrian van der Bijl, Naftali, Bible teacher Zakeus, and the villagers who have escaped to the jungle.

The Wamena-based team of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) circulated copies of an open letter for Kelly Kwalik for the second time. The ICRC team — Silviane Bonadei and Dr. Flerenc Meyer — who dropped the open letter from an Airfast helicopter, managed to get spare parts of a communications radio for the Community Health Center in Alama village. They obtained the spare parts from Mapenduma.

Henry Fournier, ICRC chief representative in Jakarta, flew from Wamena to Timika yesterday morning to meet the other ICRC team, comprised of Simeon Antoulas and Rene Suter. Rene Suter is a staff member of the ICRC who often carries out duties in the Irian Jaya area. From Timika, Fournier flew back to Jakarta.

To Make Contacts

The team from the National Commission on Human Rights and the team from the ICRC have a common objective — to make contact with Kelly Kwalik, leader of the group that kidnapped 13 hostages (including four British citizens and two from the Netherlands). The hostage-taking incident occurred on 8 January and today, Sunday, marks its 35th day.

Hasibuan and Nababan arrived in Mapenduma at noon on Saturday by MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) helicopter. They held dialogues with Naftali (former operator of a communications radio used by the GPK-Irja — Irian Jaya Security Disturbance Movement) and Zakeus at the house of churchman Andrian van der Bijl. Outside the house they noticed that Mapenduma villagers had returned to the village from the jungle.

Hasibuan said that Bijl refused to give substantial information, admitting that he was afraid to do so for fear he would get into trouble later. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: Military: No Radio Contact From Irian Jaya Kidnappers

BK1402065396 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has failed to get Kelly Kwalik, leader of a group of the GPK [official name of the OPM or Free Papua Movement] to make radio contact even though leaflets appealing him to do so were dropped on Saturday. Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Maulud Hidayat, head of the Information Service of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command, told reporters in Jayapura yesterday that efforts by an ICRC team to contact Kelly Kwalik by airdropping thousands of leaflets or asking citizens to send the message to him had not born fruit. The two ICRC emissaries are doing nothing in Wamena because of the absence of any contact with Kelly Kwalik.

According to Maulud Hidayat, a team from the National Commission on Human Rights has left Jayapura for Timika on the way back to Jakarta. The ICRC team is, however, trying to contact the GPK kidnappers, whose exact whereabouts are unknown.

Although the exact whereabouts of the GPK kidnappers are unknown, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia are trying to secure the release of the hostages through persuasive means and focussing on a territorial operation to persuade Mapenduma villagers, who have escaped to the jungle for fear of the GPK, to return home.

Indonesia: ICRC Says Kwalik Seeks 'One-on-One' Meeting With ICRC

BK1402072596 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0608 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jakarta, 14 Feb (ANTARA) — The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has confirmed a report that Kelly Kwalik [leader of a group of the OPM or Free Papua Movement, which is holding 13 Indonesian and foreign hostages in Irian Jaya] is prepared to hold a "one-on-one" meeting with an ICRC official in a certain site next week.

"The meeting may take place after next week because of the distance of the site. The meeting will certainly take place in the near future, and we hope that it will take place next week," ICRC Information Assistant Sri R. Wahyu Endah said in Jakarta on Wednesday.

She was, however, unable to disclose the highly confidential site. Even sources in Wamena and Jayapura do not know the site.

Endah simply said that only an ICRC representative and Kwalik himself would attend the meeting.

She said the military and missionaries [words indistinct] to secure the release of the hostages had been involved in the process, but "only an ICRC representative and Kwalik will be at the site."

The information assistant added [words indistinct] the whereabouts of Kwalik, but the GPK [security disturbance movement, which is the official name of the OPM] determined the site of the future meeting in a letter (?relayed) through his fellow Amungme tribesmen.

Meanwhile, relatives have received letters from the hostages sent through the ICRC.

In the letters, the hostages disclosed their (?good) general condition and called for a "positive solution" to the hostage crisis.

Indonesia: Source Claims GPK Response to ICRC Message Received

BK1402034296 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Wamena, KOMPAS — Efforts by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to contact the GPK [security disturbance movement, official name of the OPM or Free Papua Movement] are bearing fruit. Yesterday (Tuesday, 13 February), Kelly Kwalik, a GPK leader, reportedly replied to an open letter dropped by the ICRC on Friday (9 February).

"The GPK leader has received the message (open letter) sent by the ICRC through Amungme tribesmen. In his reply, he confirmed that he had received the ICRC's message," a source close to the ICRC said.

A member of an ICRC team in Wamena, however, declined to confirm the report. He suggested that instead the ICRC representative office in Jakarta should be contacted over the matter, because he was afraid that this statement could be misinterpreted by certain parties, which would in turn disrupt the ICRC's efforts.

Meanwhile, Andreas Anggaibak, a leader of the Amungme Tribal Association, who was once detained for two months over the Timika case, said the Amungme Tribal Association had not heard any news from the tribesmen sent to contact Kelly Kwalik in Hompiliga and Hoya.

"We are therefore unable to confirm the report. The Amungme Tribal Association suspended cooperation with the ICRC on Monday," he said.

He said two Amungme tribesmen sent to Hompiliga and the other two to Hoya should return to Timika by Wednesday (14 February). Therefore, it can be known on Thursday (15 February) whether or not Kelly Kwalik received the message.

If the report that Kelly Kwalik has responded to the ICRC's letter is correct, that would mark the first contact from the kidnappers since 25 January, when Jayapura Bishop Herman Munninghoff met Kelly Kwalik.

No Problem

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Amungme Tribal Association has indeed been suspended because the Amungme Tribal Association saw no transparency in their cooperation. The Amungme Tribal Association added that the ICRC did not provide adequate security to Amungme tribesmen involved in the mission.

Several officers of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command and personnel attached to the commandant of the 1702 Jayawijaya Military District Command, however, said there was no problem.

"I know Tom Beanal (a leader of the Amungme Tribal Association) and I will defend him and other Amungme tribesmen if they are threatened or arrested by duty personnel," a regional military officer said.

According to Andreas, the Amungme Tribal Association on 8 January [month as received] asked for a written "agreement" on cooperation between the ICRC and the Amungme Tribal Association. "At that time, we said the Amungme Tribal Association wanted to help the ICRC solely on humanitarian grounds. We have no relations with Kelly Kwalik," he said.

Indonesia: French Minister Says Stance on East Timor Unchanged

BK1402042096 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette has stated the French Government's policy toward East Timor remains unchanged. "I would like to reiterate that France's basic position remains unchanged. The European Union [EU] has adopted its position, and we will adhere to the EU's position," de Charette said at a news conference in Jakarta on Tuesday afternoon (13 February).

De Charette reiterated his goverment's position on the East Timor issue in response to several news reports in Jakarta. Charette has said his government will try as much as possible to prevent discussion of the East Timor issue at the Asia-Europe Meeting [ASEM] in Bangkok on 1 and 2 March 1996.

Although the French Government will adhere to the EU's position, "we are ready to help them if we are asked," de Charette said. De Charette's remarks imply that France will be ready to help Indonesia if the latter asks France to persuade Portugal not to raise the East Timor issue at the ASEM.

It has been widely reported that Portugal is expected to include the East Timor issue on the ASEM agenda. The Portuguese leader is scheduled to issue a statement on the situation in East Timor during the summit. The EU members have not recognized the incorporation of East Timor into Indonesia. They have, however, welcomed the UN secretary general's initiatives in arranging talks between Indonesia and Portugal on the East Timor issue and hope that the two sides will achieve a just, lasting, and internationally acceptable solution to the crisis.

De Charette also said he had conveyed a message from President Jacques Chirac to President Suharto on Tuesday morning. "I conveyed President Chirac's message to President Suharto. According to the message, bilateral relations are of crucial importance," he said.

He disclosed that President Chirac would hold bilateral talks on the sidelines of the ASEM. He invited Alatas and B.J. Habibie, minister of state for research and technology, to visit France.

Meanwhile, three French ministers — the minister of defense and security, the minister of research and technology, and the minister of finance and international trade [titles as received] — will visit Indonesia.

Indonesia: East Timorese Asylum Seekers Remain in Australian Embassy

BK1402085996 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Australian Embassy in Jakarta has dismissed suggestions that nine East Timorese asylum seekers intend to remain in the embassy until after the Australian general election on 2 March. A spokeswoman for the embassy, (Jane Ayers), said there were rumors to that effect in Jakarta but any such claims were without foundation. However, she said, it was not clear when the group of seven men and two women would leave their camp in the embassy's main foyer, forcing embassy staff to use an alternative entrance. The nine, who entered the embassy last Wednesday after scaling a perimeter fence, had been refused asylum in Australia. They had been told they can apply through normal channels for visas to Australia or go to Portugal, the former colonial power in East Timor. Miss (Ayers) said they were considering the options put to them, but the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is in touch with the East Timorese, says they are refusing to go to any other country but Australia.

Indonesia: 'Crazy Levels' of Military Presence in East Timor Claimed

BK1202025296 (Internet) INDONESIA Listserv in English 11 Feb 96

["East Timor Update" released by the CNRM [National Council of Maubere Resistance] on 10 February; place not given: "Increased Militarisation and Worsening Human Rights in East Timor Confirmed"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indonesian news agency ANTARA reported on February 1 [date as received] that the Indonesia's military commander in East Timor, Colonel Simbolon, had warned the East Timorese fighters (FALINTIL) [East Timor National Liberation Armed Forces] to surrender or "be finished off". He also stated that the fighters will be qualified for amnesty if they surrender "because they are part of the Indonesian nation". It is well recorded that during the 20 years of Indonesian illegal occupation of East Timor, the Indonesian military has never honoured any of their previous promises of amnesty. Colonel Simbolon's public statement coincides with increasing military operations in East Timor since October 1995.

A respected observer who visited the territory recently recounts the "obviously crazy levels of military presence in East Timor". Between Fuiloro and Los Palos, in the eastern end of the territory, he saw three camps of Indonesian army, each camp containing 1 battalion. From Baucau to Lautem (still in the East) he witnessed 14 army trucks fully loaded with heavily armed soldiers. On his way from Dili to Aileu in the central region, in only 45 km, he counted 5 military observation posts! In spite of this heavy military presence he said locals report that the Indonesians fear to go into resistance controlled areas which are quite significantly large in the eastern part.

In the eastern region he was told about five guerrillas being shot about ten days ago. He noted that this type of announcement by the Indonesian military usually signifies a major military engagement but that the Indonesian army will not report their own losses and may exaggerate losses on the Timorese side.

On February 5 he observed two large boatloads of soldiers on the Dili dock, fully armed. "They looked disgustingly impressive," he commented. His Timorese driver warned him, "these are the ones who conduct Ninja attacks. During the night, the suburb that has a blackout after 10:00 pm is certainly under ninja cleanout operation." When they passed the suburb of Fatu-Hada at exactly 22:15 pm, the lights went off indicating that an attack there could occur that night.

At Kupang airport, he saw 80 soldiers in the adjoining military air base (with orange/rusty coloured berets) arriving from Dili and being transferred immediately into an Hercules.

He commented on his return about the growing Indonesianisation of East Timor, with more mosques and signs of Islamic activity. He also noted an increased Indonesian presence within the Catholic Church of East Timor and commented on Indonesian priests and nuns "flooding into the country."

This man who previously been to East Timor and is a competent observer of the local situation (but must remain anonymous) commented that, in his view, human rights were the worst they had been since February 1992 (immediately after the Dili massacre). He said "Its ongoing — harassment, killings, and pressure in the cities and the mountains."

Whilst he was there a riot occurred at Becora prison (recently mentioned in the Australian press). He said that his information was that 47 Timorese were injured and hospitalised. One Armindo da Silva, 29, was killed. Information is that 8 prisoners escaped. Whilst Indonesia claims that they were recaptured, there are persistent rumours that some have escaped to the bush.

He received reliable information about the mistreatment of the youngest prisoner in Becora: this youth (who recently turned 15 in prison) is in very bad condition as a result of repeated bashing and torture.

There was a crowd of about two thousand at the inauguration of the new seminary in Balide-Dili, and a pro-independence demonstration took place there. A number of banners mentioned Xanana and there were "lots of raised fists". Indonesian bishops present called the demonstrators "hooligans, rascals and outlaws". The Indonesian military arrested three of the demonstrators two of whom were beaten badly before being dragged away.

When asked about the continuing resistance in spite of this onslaught he commented that it is "an extraordinary act of heroism" and that many people continue to be willing to risk their lives for their cause.

CNRM appeals to the international community and UN to stop the genocide in East Timor. We urge the Australian government and the alternate government to use their good offices to help the initiatives of the UN Secretary General to put an end to the continuing saga of the East Timorese people.

Indonesia: Military Frees 842 Suspected 'Deviationist Group' Members

BK1002122296 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 10 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] KOMPAS — As many as 842 suspected followers of a deviationist group in West Java have been returned to society so that they will not be isolated from social life. As there was no concrete proof that they wanted to establish the Islamic State of Indonesia [NII], there was no need to conduct legal proceedings against them.

Major General Tayo Tarmadi, commander of the Siliwangi 3d Military Region Command, said this during a news conference in Bandung on Thursday (8 February). The commander was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel (Infantry) Herman Ibrahim, head of the Information of Service of the Siliwangi 3d Military Region Command, during the news conference held on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the Siliwangi 3d Military Region Command.

According to Tayo, 195 of the 842 followers had a fair degree of intellectual ability and sixteen alleged leaders had been prosecuted. "Nevertheless, there was no strong proof that they wanted to establish the NII. They did not know the objectives and background of the ideology taught to them. They have been returned to society so that they will not be isolated from social life," he said.

Over the past year, the followers of the deviationist group had conducted disintegration activities in a number of areas in West Java such as Garut, Banten, Cirebon, and Purwakarta. According to Tayo, their acitivities were designed to create factions within the society and eventually perpetuate poverty.

Indonesia: Military Announces 'Large-Scale' Reshuffle 8 Feb

BK0902131996 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 9 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS — Lieutenant General Mohamed Ma'ruf, chief for sociopolitical affairs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], said on Thursday (8 February) that the entry of senior officers who had previously served in the information services into the elite ABRI leadership was not a new phenomenon but was rather prompted by the tasks. [passage omitted on official handing-over ceremony]

Large-scale Reshuffle

A large-scale reshuffle in the ranks of senior ABRI officers has been announced. The reshuffle came only less than two weeks after the previous large-scale reshuffle. Ninety-two officers were involved in the reshuffle at the end of last month.

On Thursday (8 February) yesterday, the ABRI announced a reshuffle involving 99 senior officers — 45 from the Indonesian Army, three from the Indonesian Navy, 31 from the Indonesian Air Force, and 20 from the Republic of Indonesia Police.

The post of head of the ABRI Information Service vacated by Suwarno will be filled by Brig. Gen. Amir Syarifudin (currently chief of staff of the Trikora 8th Military Region Command). Amir Syarifudin will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Johny J. Lumintang.

Maj. Gen. Kholid Gozali (currently expert staff coordinator to the Army chief of staff) will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Syamsudin (currently head of the Indonesian Army Research and Development Service). The former will assume a civilian post. Maj. Gen. Mansyur will hand over the post of assistant for personnel affairs to the ABRI chief for sociopolitical affairs to Brig. Gen. Slamet Sugiharjo (currently head of the ABRI History Service). Slamet Sugiharjo will be replaced by Cavalry Colonel M. Mudakir.

The post of deputy assistant for operations to the chief of the ABRI General Staff currently held by Brig. Gen. Fakhrul Razi will be given to Brig. Gen. S.B. Yudhoyono MBA [Master of Business Administration]. Fakhrul Razi will become chief of staff of the Wirabuana 7th Military Region Command in place of Brig. Gen. Gunawan.

Brig. Gen Agus Wijaya, who was, like Fakhrul Razi, a 1970 graduate of the National Military Academy, has been appointed as chief of staff of the Sriwijaya 2d Military Region Command to replace Brig. Gen. A.P. Siregar. The post of deputy assistant for public planning to the Armed Forces commander currently held by Agus Wijaya will be given to Col. (Infantry) Endriartono Sutarto (currently chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division of the Army Strategic Command).

The post of head of the Indonesian Army Security and Encoding Service will be handed over by Brig. Gen. Sutarto S.K. to Infantry Col. F.X. Suprono. Sutarto will become deputy assistant for security affairs to the Army chief of staff in place of Brig. Gen. I Nyoman Kada (who will assume a civilian post).

The post of head of the Indonesian Army Information Service currently held by Brig. Gen. Hardi Kerso will be given to Col. (Infantry) Robik Mukav, currently commandant of the 011 Military Area Command of the Bukit Barisan 1st Military Region Command. The post of chief of staff of the Capital Garrison Command will be handed over by Brig. Gen. Nurdin Yusuf to Col. (Infantry) Syafrie Syamsudin MBA (currently commandant of the 061 Military Area Command of the Siliwangi 3d Military Region Command). Nurdin Yusuf will replace Brig. Gen. Sridono (as chief of staff of the Army Strategic Command).

The post of chief of staff of the Brawijaya 5th Military Region Command currently held by Brig. Gen. Slamet S.T. will be given to Col. (Infantry) Mukhdi P.R. (commandant of the 042 Military Area Command of the Sriwijaya 2d Military Region Command). Slamet S.T. will assume a new post in the National Defense Institute of the Department of Defense and Security.

Indonesian Navy and Indonesian Air Force

In the Indonesian Navy, the post of general chairman of the Navy Central Cooperative will be handed over by Rear Admiral Suparman, who is retiring, to Navy Colonel (A [expansion unknown]) Rasyid Hasan S.E. [Master of Economics].

Meanwhile in the Indonesian Air Force, Air Force Inspector General Air Force Maj. Gen. Akhmadi S.E. will be replaced by Air Force Brig. Gen. Mahpudin Taka (currently commandant of the 2d Air Force Operations Command). The post of commandant of the 2d Air Force Operations Command will be filled by Air Force Brig. Gen. Hanafi Asnan (currently commandant of the Iswahyudi Air Base), and Hanafi Asnan will in turn be replaced by Air Force Col. (Aviator) Surpihadi, currently head of the Subdirectorate for Operations and Training of the Air Force.

The post of Air Force deputy chief of staff for personnel affairs currently held by Air Force Maj. Gen. F.X. Suyitno will be handed over to Air Force Maj. Gen. Sutria Tubagus (currently commandant of the Indonesian Air Force Education Command). Sutria's successor will be Air Force Brig. Gen. Bakhrudin S.E. (currently commandant of the Abdurrakhman Saleh Air Base). Bakhrudin will in turn be replaced by Air Force Col. (Aviator) Cucu Juanda (currently director for operations of the 2d Air Force Operations Command).

The post of Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations will be handed over by Air Force Maj. Gen. Sugiarto to Air Force Maj. Gen. I Gede Sudhana (currently commander of the 1st Air Force Operations Command). The post of commander of the 1st Air Force Operations Command will be filled by Air Force Brig. Gen. Purnomo Sidi (currently deputy commander of the 1st Air Force Operations Command).

Purnomo Sidi will be replaced by Air Force Brig. Gen. Iskak Karnanto (currently commandant of the Halim Perdanakusuma Main Air Base). Iskak Karnanto will be succeeded by Air Force Brig. Gen. Abdullah Syirat (currently deputy commandant of the Air Force Staff and Command School), and Abdullah Syirat will in turn be replaced by Air Force Col. (Aviator) Rukmo Susetyasa (currently commandant of the Atang Sanjaya Air Base). [passage omitted on reshuffle in police force]

Indonesia: Paris, Jakarta Want To Relaunch Bilateral Cooperation

BR1302160496 Paris LA TRIBUNE DESFOSSES in French 13 Feb 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Paris and Jakarta Want To Relaunch Bilateral Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the first day of French Foreign Minister de Charette's visit to Indonesia, both countries have announced their joint intention to relaunch bilateral political and economic cooperation. The French minister said "we are lagging tragically behind" and encouraged French businessmen to corner the Indonesian market, assuring them of the "French Government's support." France ranks 14th among the foreign investors in Indonesia with $1.6 billion for 1995 (against $20.7 for Great Britain) while its market share amounts to 2.5 percent. [passage omitted]

Indonesia: Official on Reason for Rice Imports, Fall in Acreage

BK1202145596 Jakarta GATRA in Indonesian 10 Feb 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] About 12 foreign-registered ships transporting 136,743 tons of imported rice were seen queuing at Jakarta's Tanjung Priok port. The ships arrived more than one month ago on 27 December, and have since been waiting for berthing instruction from the harbor master. The rice was only unloaded and transported to Bulog [State Logistics Bureau] warehouses at the beginning of last week.

This queue of ships at Jakarta's Tanjung Priok have lengthened because the Sumatra ports were reportedly not ready to handle them. Other sources said the long queue was caused by the failure of Bulog warehouses to accommodate the imported rice as some of the warehouses in Cakung had been rented by private companies.

Bulog Chief Beddu Amang dismissed reports that the agency's warehouses were not ready to take the rice in. "There is no problem with the warehouses," he said.

Communications Minister Haryanto Dhanutirto, who visited Tanjung Priok port together with Beddu Amang last Thursday, said the long queue was due to the ships arriving at the same time to a port with limited berthing facilities.

Haryanto said 10 piers are now in operation (earlier there were only seven) to service the ships. The Communications Department has also decided to provide several warehouses with a capacity of between 17,000 and

30,000 tons to store the imported rice. This is necessary because 16 more ships are scheduled to arrive soon. "Bulog will finish unloading all the rice by 11 February," said Haryanto.

Indonesia imported 2 million tons of rice for 1995-96, or 0.4 tons less than the previous year. Bulog's rice imports have raised farmers' concern because it may lower domestic prices and affect their income.

Beddu Amang said the farmers need not worry because the decision to import rice will not affect their income. The import of rice is aimed at stabilizing prices which tend to rise on the eve of 'Id al- Fitr religious festival. [passage omitted]

Why do we have to import rice? This is because national rice production for 1993 and 1994 dropped by four percent, due to dwindling agricultural areas in Java, previously known as the rice bowl of the country. About one million hectares of rice fields have been turned into factories or residential areas in the past 10 years, while consumption has continued to grow in line with the population growth.

Laos

Laos: Joint U.S. Team Carries Out MIA Operation

BK1302143396 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Implementing the humanitarian policy of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, responding to the requests of the U.S. Government and families of those U.S. soldiers presumably missing in Laos during the war, and implementing the joint program of action for the 1995-96 period, the joint Lao- U.S. technical team conducted surveys and excavations at many U.S. plane crash sites in southern Laos from 6 January to 6 February 1996 to look for the remains and other belongings of U.S. soldiers missing in Laos during the war.

The joint technical team conducted surveys in 13 out of 19 sites in Bolikhamsai, Khammouane, and Savannakhet Provinces; and excavations on three crash sites in Boualapha District, Khammouane Province. Only one excavation has been completed; work has yet to be continued on the other two sites.

At the three excavation sites, the team found some remains, dental remains, and other belongings of U.S. crewmen as well as some aircraft parts. These discoveries will be flown back to the United States for further identification.

The above act was the second joint operation ever carried out by the joint team for the 1995-95 period. It was also the forty- seventh joint operation carried out so far by the two sides. Even though the joint operation was carried out in remote areas, the joint team managed to overcome all difficulties with full cooperation from local administrations concerned.

Laos: Vice Premier, Foreign Minister Receive Thai Delegation

BK1002135496 Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, February 08 [date as received] (KPL) — Khamphoui Keoboualapha, vice prime minister and president of the Committee for Planning and Co-operation, received at his office yesterday afternoon a delegation of the Thai Government led by Mr. Samak Sunthorawet, vice prime minister of Thailand.

During the meeting, Khamphoui Keoboualapha welcomed the Thai delegation to Laos and described the Laos visit a contribution to strengthening and expanding the time-honoured ties of friendship and co-operation between the two neighbours. He also briefed the guests of the socio-economic development, foreign investment in Laos as well as the growing investment in Laos by Thai investors, and wished Mr. Samak success in his visit.

The head of the Thai Government delegation informed the Lao vice prime minister of the outcome of the talks with the Lao government delegation. He also told Mr. Khamphoui about the delegation's purposes of the Laos visit, particularly the co- operation in communication and the construction of roads to Vietnam.

On the same day morning, the Thai delegation had called on Foreign Minister, Somsavat Lengsavat, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. During the cordial meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the ties of friendship and co-operation between Laos and Thailand which have constantly improved and expanded.

The Lao foreign minister highly valued the visit to Laos by the Thai delegation and it was hoped to facilitate the good co-operation in various areas, especially in the development of road communication of mutual interest.

Laos: Thai Government Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

BK1002144696 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand led by His Excellency [H.E] Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthorawet left

Vientiane for home at noon today ending a four-day visit to Laos.

During the visit, the Thai Government delegation led by H.E. Samak Sunthorawet met separately with H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Planning and Cooperation Committee; H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, minister of foreign affairs; and H.E. Phao Bounnaphon, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction. During the meetings, the Lao side informed the state guest of its socioeconomic development, foreign investment, the development of communications lines in Laos, and other issues. The Thai side showed particular interest in the cooperation in communications work with Laos, in particular the building of a road linking Paklai District and Bouplao in Sayaboury Province and the building of highway No. 8 leading to the SRV. The Thai side also showed interest in the construction in the first phase of the railroad linking Vientiane and Nong Khai [Thailand] and the second phase of railroad linking Vientiane and northern region of Laos.

During its stay in Laos, the delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand also visited and inspected the road linking Paklai District and Bouplao and highway No. 8 leading to the SRV. The Thai delegation also visited Laksao in Khamkeut District, Bolikhamsai Province; the Houai Son-Houai Soua agricultural development center in Nasaithong District, Vientiane municipality; the orphan care center in Vientiane; the public health development project in Phonhong District, Vientiane Province; and other places.

Laos: Trade Ministry Delegation Leaves for Working Visit to SRV

BK1002144996 Vientiane KPL in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, February 10 (KPL) — A delegation of the Ministry of Commerce led by its deputy-minister, Lian Thikeo, left here yesterday morning for Vietnam on a seven-day long working visit to this eastern neighbour at the invitation of the Ministry of Commerce of Vietnam.

During its visit, the delegation is scheduled to discuss with the host about expanding and strengthening trading ties between the two countries. Matters about cross-border goods, free trade, and border trade will also be discussed. The two sides will also share experience in the management of trade sector and trade with ASEAN.

The working visit to Vietnam by this Lao delegation is in furtherance of the agreement of the Lao-Vietnamese Commissions for Economic, Trade, Cultural, Scientific, and Technical Co-operation.

Philippines

Philippines: Grenade Explodes in Shell Building; Two Injured

BK1402052596 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0509 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two people were injured when a grenade exploded in the Shell Building in Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati at 1215 [0415 GMT]. According to the report, the adjoining Citibank Towers also suffered damage. The victims have been rushed to the Makati Medical Center. One of the victims was identified only by the name of Jay. The authorities are investigating the explosion and have banned passage near the area. The motive for the explosion is still unknown.

Philippines Police Official Comments on Grenade Explosion

BK1402082696 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0655 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we reported earlier, a bomb exploded in Makati at 1215 [0415 GMT]. Here is a full report from Martin Gonsalvez:

[Begin live relay] [Gonzales] Here we are along the stretch of Villar Street in Salcedo Village, Makati where a long series of strong explosions believed to come from high-powered firearms occurred at 1215. Three huge buildings here were hit by the explosions, including the Citibank Building located at the corner of Villar and Paseo de Roxas Streets, which you can see in the background. The Citibank Building was hit by suspected M-16 rounds and explosions from an M-209 grenade launcher. The Shell House, a block away from the Citibank Building, was also hit. Some of the equipment used by the suspects in the bombing was found in a residential building called Blanco Center, two blocks away from the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Villar Streets.

With us here is Chief Superintendent Job Mayo, head of the National Capital Region [NCR] Command. This is a good opportunity, Chief Superintendent Mayo, because the motive for the explosions is still uncertain. Could you please tell us about your initial findings? Was this a terrorist attack? Was this a bank robbery? What is happening here?

[Mayo] We can see from this series of events — because of the prompt arrival of our police here under Block Commander Ruiz — that the bank was the first building to come under fire here at the corner. Their intention was to go inside the bank, but there were many guards and they were on alert because an armored car was going out. They were able to respond immediately. So the bank robbers were not able to enter and they proceeded to this stretch of Villar. As a distraction they fired at the base of a building, and when they were a little farther away they fired at the top of this building — the Shell Building. Then we think they turned right here at the end of Villar, but as they escaped, there was already a checkpoint at their destination. So they entered and left their equipment in an empty room.

Here we have recovered... [pauses] As has been reported, there were people who entered and left a big bag. The contents of this bag are two baby Armalites, one M-79 adaptation, eight unspent 40 mm grenade rounds, eight M-16 Armalite magazines loaded with bullets, five ski masks, and two crowbars. This indicates that these tools were really for a bank robbery — like the masks, so they could not be identified when they entered the bank. They also had crowbars to force open the desks of tellers or the half-open safe.

[Gonzales] Sir, based on your investigation and from the statements gathered, do you have descriptions of the suspects or how they were able to escape?

[Mayo] Well, as of now we are still consolidating that. We are gathering witnesses and they are now at our police station to give additional information. What we have right now is an NCR-wide dragnet for a silver, heavily-tinted L300 [type of car]. This is what they used in their escape there at the back of Blanco Building, heading to the highway.

[Gonzales] Okay, thank you. You have just heard our interview with Chief Superintendent Job Mayo of the National Capital Region Command. So, General, we will await the results of your investigation.

Reporting live from Villar Street here in Salcedo Village, Makati, this is Martin Gonsalvez for GMA News Live. Back to the studio. [end relay]

Thank you Martin. In related news, three of the four victims from the blast are now safe. The condition of Ernesto Cabiz and Imelda Paredes, who are both at the Makati Medical Center, is now stable, along with Myrna Resentoso, who was immediately rushed to the Makati Hospital. Jay Tagan, the victim who was hit in the head by shrapnel, is still under observation.

Philippine National Police Chief Recaredo Sarmiento says it is still too early to say who is responsible for the bombing. He said it is possible this had nothing to do with the antiterrorism bill, but it might be connected to the oil price hike. There were similar bombings in 1993 and 1994 due to oil price hikes.

Philippines: Makati Police on Red Alert; Makati City Security Augmented

BK1402110296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0945 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Makati Police has been placed on red alert, and security at the financial district here in Makati City has been augmented.

Philippines: Police, Military Disperse Two Abu Sayyaf Camps

BK1402053196 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Feb 96

[Report by Inocentes I. Gulle — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato — The extremist Abu Sayyaf has seemingly succeeded in re-establishing its strength in the western coastal towns of Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani, until the police and the military recently dispersed the stronghold in combined operations. The assault was to go after the group that kidnapped those having their vacation last 28 December at Trinkini Resort in Lake Sebu town. Task Force Cobra, led by Lt. Edilberto Celes, with assistance of citizen informers and the police, killed 10 and wounded some terrorists. The terrorist group departed hastily as evidenced by remnants of home-made grenades and bombs which the military confiscated. In Datu Dani, Kiamba town, elements of Task Force Cobra pursuing the fleeing Sayyaf men recovered a 90-mm. recoilless rifle left by the terrorists.

Philippines: Agent: Abu Sayyaf Uses Donations for Operations

BK1002080296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0945 GMT 9 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups are using money donated for building mosques and Muslim schools in Mindanao for their military operations. Our reporter, Maki Pulido, has the details. Maki, come in:

[Begin recording] [Pulido] Funds donated by Muslim countries are being used by the Abu Sayyaf in its operations instead of building mosques and Muslim schools. This was revealed by Javit Ali, a terrorist who became a police agent.

According to Ali, the funds are from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iran, and Qatar and are given to (Hiyad Rabkatal Al Islamiah), a Muslim nongovernment organization, which has an office in Makati.

Ali said Al Islamiah is allegedly supporting the plans of Moro National Liberation Front and Moro Islamic

Liberation Front to separate Mindanao from the Philippines.

[Ali, in English] Actually they want to separate Mindanao. This is their plan. Some Muslim countries are supporting those groups to separate Mindanao from the Philippines.

[Pulido] Ali added that Al Islamiah has a $10 million deposit at the Far East Bank and Philippine National Bank. He said this NGO has been in the Philippines for nine years and that Al Islamiah will remain in the Philippines until Mindanao is given autonomy. [end recording]

Philippines: Senator Says Talks With Muslim Rebels Futile

BK1302084896 Quezon City MALAYA in English 8 Feb 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Regina Bengco]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile (LP [Liberal Party]) yesterday said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] was "testing" the government's will to launch retaliatory action in the burning of 42 houses and government installations in Barangay [village] Guiling in Sitio Tambunan, Almeda, North Cotabato.

At least 300 families are believed to have fled the barangay when 50 rebels leveled a social welfare office using rifle grenades.

Enrile, author of the controversial antiterrorism bill, said the MILF is government's biggest problem in Mindanao and that peace talks only weaken its position.

He explained that giving territories to insurgents such as the MILF and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and allowing them to be absorbed into the Armed Forces would be suicidal.

"We will have MNLF forces in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] passing information to the other side and with territories as their sanctuaries. It is the most stupid thing to do," he said.

He also said that peace talks are just an exercise of futility since it will not solve the Mindanao problem. "Nur Misuari is not anymore the leader of the separatists; he is only perceived as the main actor. Even if he signs the agreement 100 times, it will not solve the Mindanao problem," he added.

Philippines: Senator Says Muslim Terrorism Threat 'Serious'

BK1302082296 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 9 Feb 96 p 8

[Report by Rey Requejo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senator Orlando Mercado yesterday said the pillage of two villages in Buluan, North Cotabato by armed groups belonging to Moro Islamic Liberation Front [MILF] is indicative of the seriousness of the Muslim terrorism threat on the security of the country.

Mercado, chairman of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, said there is really a growing serious problem in Mindanao that necessitates a quick legislative action that would effectively address the growing terrorism threat.

"The Buluan incident is indicative of our serious security problem not only in Mindanao but also throughout the whole country," Mercado said.

The senator was reacting to the report that a number of armed groups belonging to the MILF raided the two barangays [villages] in Buluan Town Sunday, burning residential houses and looting undetermined worth of properties and personal belongings.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile believed the Buluan incident was meant to provoke the government's resolve to respond to the ensuing violence and its will to assert its sovereign power over Mindanao.

Mercado feared that the "blooming" potential problem in Mindanao would rise to an alarming level if not properly addressed. "We must put in place the mechanism. Unfortunately, the movement in the south is supported from outside in terms of arms and the infiltration of foreign terrorists. They are operating here," he stressed.

"I am afraid the government will not be able to protect itself while these people (referring to terrorists) move. So I think we must move quickly in this area," he added.

Mercado also admitted that the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf group pose a serious threat to the security of Mindanao and even to the country.

The senator, however, said the government through the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] is in control of the situation and "can meet the exigency."

"The AFP is capable of meeting the threat but we must help them by way of coming up with certain measures, including an antiterrorism bill accepted to all, so that we don't get caught unaware or unprepared for any eventuality," Mercado stressed.

Mercado, author of an antiterrorism bill which deals primarily on summary proceedings on foreign terrorists, said he is amenable to an antiterrorism bill that strictly protects human rights and, at the same time, serves as an effective tool for law enforcers to fight terrorism.

Philippines: MILF Denies Attack, Burning of Houses in North Cotabato

BK1302062196 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Feb 96 p 14

[Report by Nash Maulana with Dave Veridiano]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cotabato City — The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday denied involvement in the reported twin attacks in Banisilan, North Cotabato, which resulted in the burning of houses and the killing of two civilians.

Al Haj Murad, MILF vice chair for military affairs, accused the military of orchestrating the incident to justify the passage of the government's anti-terrorism bills.

Armed men believed to be MILF guerrillas indiscriminately assaulted Barangays [Villages] Guiling and Tambunan in Banisilan town Sunday and Monday, sending some 70 families in flight.

In Manila, Gen. Arturo Enrile, Armed Forces chief of staff, blamed MILF Lost Commands for the attacks. The rebels, he said, have set Carmen town as their next target.

Enrile said a notorious leader of the group, Commander Pakil Ayunan, led the attack in two sitios [village districts] in Guiling after the villagers refused to pay zakat or "revolutionary taxes."

The military had said MILF guerrillas burned 45 houses and a health center (not a Catholic chapel as reported earlier).

Murad confirmed that the attackers were led by Ayunan, who is of Ilonggo and Maguindanaon parentage and facing charges of multiple murder and robbery in band.

He said Ayunan is not a member of the MILF and he is, in fact, at odds with the group of Kagui Manalos Magandingan, MILF leader in the controversial Malmar Irrigation Project in Carmen.

The MILF official said Magandingan had planned the killing of Pakil's deputy, Antonio "Bebbot" Antonio, an ex-Army sergeant.

Ayunan and Antonio were principal suspects in the massacre of 21 Christians in Barangay Liliongan, Carmen, on 24 December 1992.

Banisilan Mayor Porferio Macasarte said the military has established that the perpetrators of the latest attacks were MILF rebels.

But, he said, these could have been an offshoot of the ambush- slay of a local militiaman, identified as Jose Manuel.

Brig. General Raul Urgello, 6th Infantry Division commander, said a military contingent was deployed Monday to Guiling to avert a brewing tension gripping residents.

In Buluan, Maguindanao, MILF guerrillas under Kumander [Commander] Kamaraudzman Salendab withdrew yesterday from the town hall, according to Urgello.

The rebels had encamped in the area following a clash with Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebel returnees, resulting in the death of three persons.

Philippines: Muslim Rebel Commander With Illegal Drugs Arrested

BK1002080596 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 Feb 96 p 12

[Report by Cena B. de Guzman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police uncovered recently the involvement of members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the illegal drug trade with the arrest of one of its commanders.

Commander Macacuna Basher of the MNLF was arrested by police in Davao City. Recovered from him was an undetermined amount of metamphetamine hydrochloride, locally known as shabu, and other drug paraphernalia.

Two of his cohorts, who were not immediately identified, escaped.

Philippines: Further on Capture of Suspected Chinese 'Pirates'

BK1202015296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 11 Feb 96

[Italicized Passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] A firefight took place between suspected Chinese pirates and the Philippine Navy in Zambales on Saturday [10 February]. According to Navy Vice Admiral Pio Carranza, one of our patrol boats was hit when the crew of the foreign ship fired at it. Earlier, the Philippine Navy fired several warning shots after sighting the foreign vessel 20 miles from Subic Bay. No one was hurt on the Philippine Navy side.

[Begin recording] [Task Group Commander Captain Ernesto De Leon, identified by caption — in progress] *...boat — this is the patrol killer medium which we recently acquired — challenged this unidentified vessel because it was not flying any flag or registry. But instead of answering the challenge, it sped off towards the* [word indistinct] exit. *Then when we gave chase and fired the warning shot this boat answered back;* they also fired at us. The lifeline of PK 110 was hit.

[Unidentified correspondent] How many were hit?

[De Leon] Only one on our side.

[Unidentified correspondent] *(?The same) with the other boat?*

[De Leon] They were also hit, on the [word indistinct]; on the sides there are hit marks. [end recording]

Twenty crew members of the foreign vessel were arrested and will be charged with entering Philippine territory illegally. The Navy suspects that this encounter with foreigners is related to the one that occurred on 22 January off Capones Island in Zambales.

Philippines Military Officers on Seizure of Chinese 'Pirates'

BK1302035196 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 12 Feb 96

[Italicized Passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 20 Chinese pirates that the Philippine Navy encountered in Zambales on Saturday [10 February] will be charged with *illegal intrusion*. This was confirmed by Armed Forces chief Arturo Enrile as he called on Congress to pass a bill against piracy in Philippine territory. He also urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to hold a dialogue with Chinese officials, as several Chinese nationals have been involved in crimes within Philippine waters.

Meanwhile, Navy Vice Admiral Pio Carranza believes the suspected pirates were involved in *human smuggling*. Several fake ID's were confiscated from the pirates:

[Begin Carranza recording] *That is very likely, because considering the size of the ship*, this ship normally would not have more than 10 crew members. It was carrying 20 people when seized, however, and some have... [pauses] Well, the ID cards they were carrying do not match their faces and ages. You can be sure that the ID's do not belong to them. I am therefore confident in saying that this ship was not only involved in piracy but also with the *smuggling of human cargo*. [end recording]

The arrested Chinese are currently being held on board their ship docked at Navy Headquarters. They are set to be transferred to the multisectoral Committee on Illegal Entry at the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation:

[Begin Carranza recording] *Maybe* they will be *turned over to the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation*. [end recording]

Philippines Rules Out Diplomatic Protest Against PRC

BK1302132296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0945 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Philippines will not file a diplomatic protest against China in connection with the encounter between the Philippine Navy and suspected Chinese foreigners who illegally entered Philippine territory.

According to Foreign Affairs Secretary Domingo Siazon, the foreigners who were engaged in a gunfight with the Navy recently are pirates and not spies. Illegal entry or crimes similar to this can be charged to the intruders.

Philippines: Envoy Says PRC To Investigate Case of 'Pirates'

BK1402021096 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The PRC will investigate the case of 20 suspected Chinese pirates captured by the Philippine Navy recently. This was announced by Chinese Embassy spokesperson Jiang Qui Tien in an interview with GMA news. He refused to comment on the case, however.

The 20 crew members of the ship are currently being detained at Philippine Navy Headquarters, having been captured by a Philippine Navy patrol last Saturday [10 February]. Navy chief Vice Admiral Pio Carranza believes the suspected Chinese nationals were involved in piracy and human smuggling at the Subic Bay free port.

Philippines Armed Forces Chief Urges 'Stricter Laws' on Foreign Entry

BK1402021296 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed Forces chief Arturo Enrile has called for stricter laws against illegal intrusion by foreigners into the country's territory. He added that there should be a law to monitor the entry and exit of foreign vessels from Philippine territory. Enrile's call to lawmakers was triggered by the recent shooting incident between 20 suspected Chinese pirates and the

Philippine Navy. He also called on the Chinese Government to prevent its people from sailing into foreign territories. Enrile admitted that the Philippines currently has no border patrol contingent because, according to him, the Philippines and China have not yet determined their border limits:

[Begin Enrile recording in progress, in English] ...need more — more laws, stricter as you said — to help the law enforcement agencies and our corps to be able to teach good lessons to lawless elements such as pirates and other intruders. [end recording]

Philippines Officer Hails Visit by New Zealand Defense Chief

BK1202074296 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Feb 96

[Report by Cena B. de Guzman — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City — Gen. Arturo T. Enrile, Armed Forces chief of staff, said yesterday that the visit of New Zealand Defense Chief Lt. Gen. Anthony Birks has strengthened the defense and military relationship between the two nations.

Enrile said that the Philippines and New Zealand have had training exchanges, but the visit of Birks made "cooperation and coordination easier."

Enrile and Birks discussed the possible signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two countries, particularly on military student exchanges, sharing of information, and the defense industries of New Zealand vis-a-vis the modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Birks, the first New Zealand military chief to visit the Philippines, said that he and Enrile have talked about reciprocal visits, training, and military courses.

Birks, who visited the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in this city, said that he was impressed with the parade honors given him by its cadets and what "struck me most is your (PMAers) pride in your membership in the military academy."

Thailand

Thailand: Narcotics Official: U.S. Has 'Enough' Evidence on Former MP

BK1302091996 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Feb 96 p A2

[Report by Pharit Lamphongphaibun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US government already has enough evidence to support its charges that former MP Thanong Siriprichaphong smuggled 45 tonnes of marijuana into that country, and it sent officials to Thailand last week to strengthen its case, a Narcotics Suppression Bureau official said.

Pol. Maj. Gen. [Police Major General] Nopphadon Sombunsap, deputy commissioner of the Police Department's Narcotics Suppression Bureau, said on Friday that the US request for more information and evidence from Thailand was to close all possible loopholes that Thanong's defence lawyers might use to counter the charges in court.

Thanong was extradited to San Francisco last month. Nopphadon said Thai government agencies usually hold official documents for only 10 years and that they would not be able to provide anything for the years between 1973 and 1986.

A federal grand jury in San Francisco indicted Thanong in 1991 for allegedly operating a criminal enterprise from 1973 until late 1987, smuggling marijuana to the West Coast in freight containers and aboard ships and conspiring with others to import marijuana into the country between 1986 and late 1987. On his arrival in San Francisco, Thanong, a former Chat Thai Party member, pleaded not guilty to charges of drug trafficking and racketeering.

Nopphadon said Thailand would be able to provide some information for the years 1987 onwards and that the US request for assistance was made under the 1992 Thai-US criminal cooperation act.

He said Thailand was doing its best to assist the US team, which wants to complete its work here within a month.

"We are hurrying (to help the US team), but searching for and obtaining the documents takes time, since we have to go through a multi-level process," Nopphadon said.

The US delegation wants to obtain more information about Thanong's alleged drug exports and wants Thai authorities to question people who were thought to have been involved with the shipments to determine if they could verify that Thanong was the sender of the illicit goods.

Nopphadon said the team also wants Thailand to question Customs Department officers to determine whether they had inspected goods exported by Thanong from 1973-1987. He added that all the officers were still alive.

He said one customs officer had already stated that he did not inspect all the container shipments going out each day because of the large number of containers involved. He said containers were inspected on a random basis.

If the US attorney general's office wants these officers to testify in court in San Francisco then it can submit a request to the Thai government for cooperation, he said.

Chatchai Sutbiglom, director of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board's (ONCB) Assets Seizure Division, has rejected claims that Thanong's extradition to the United States was based on obscure information obtained from other suspects.

He said the US government had amended its anti-narcotics laws to allow the reduction of criminal punishment for those who cooperate by providing information that could lead to the arrest of big-time traffickers.

Apart from Thanong, the US government has also requested the arrest and extradition of 20 top lieutenants of opium warlord Khun Sa Thai police officers arrested 10 of them in late 1994 and the eleventh on Oct 31 last year.

While the US considers Khun Sa's men to be Burmese, of either Shan or Chinese blood, several of the 11 suspects have argued that they are Thai and also presented their Thai identity cards as evidence.

Late last year the Interior Ministry decided to revoke their citizenship and annulled their Thai citizenship claims. Thanong had earlier argued against his extradition by claiming that the Thai-US extradition treaty did not cover the sending of Thai citizens to the US.

Nopphadon said Thanong's extradition had set a precedent for Thai nationals and that the 11 alleged aides of Khun Sa were now awaiting a final court verdict on their extradition.

He said the group could be extradited around the middle of this year at the earliest.

Kitti Limchaikit, director of the ONCB's drug suppression division, said the 11 men had tried every possible means to defend themselves and delay their possible extradition. Despite time- consuming court procedures and their fierce defence efforts, he said he believed the group could be sent to the US before the end of this year.

Thailand: Former Minister Thanat Accused of CIA Links by Critic

BK1402052896 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 14 Feb 96 p A1

[Report by P. Phongphiphatthanaphan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Social critic Sulak Siwalak yesterday lashed out against former foreign minister Thanat Khoman for condemning the upcoming NGO [nongovernmental organization] conference, saying the latter is a former CIA informant.

Thanat last week claimed that the non-governmental organizations were fronts for "agencies" of the American government — sent here to disrupt the upcoming Asia-Europe Meeting.

"Don't pay much attention to Thanat. He was hired by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) but was thrown out. He just wants to wreak vengeance on the US," said Sulak, a well-known NGO coordinator.

The international NGO conference will serve as a forum for about 80 representatives from Asian and European NGOs from February 27-29. Topics to be discussed include human rights, nuclear testing, women's rights, and economics.

Thanat said the US wants to sabotage the development of stronger economic relations between Asia and Europe, fearing stronger bonds between the regions will undermine its position in the Far East.

Sulak said the true nature of Thanat's character was revealed when he tried to defend Thai politicians who were refused entry visas for the US because of their alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Sulak said the government would be foolish to refuse to accept the NGOs' resolutions.

He added that the NGO conference coordinator, Khothom Araya, is widely recognized by both the government and the private sector as being a credible voice for change. This, he said, ensures that the resolutions passed at the meeting will be legitimate and worthy of consideration by the government.

Thailand: U.S. Model in Running for Army's New Light Tank

BK1402035296 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Army has chosen Stingray light tanks as one of the candidates to replace the ageing M41 tank which has been in service for several decades.

A high-level army officer said yesterday that an updated version of the US-made tank, the Stingray II, had met army "specifications".

The Army bought 105 Stingray light tanks manufactured by Cadillac Cage Textron Warren Company a few years ago.

But problems later emerged when several tanks developed cracked turrets after prolonged firing of their cannon, prompting then Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit to announce that the Army would never buy the same tanks again.

The Army, said the officer, plans to buy 200 new light tanks.

Thailand: France's Dassault: Mirage 2000-5 'Superior' to F-18's

BK1302085396 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 13 Feb 96 p A1

[Report by Grenville Fordham and Aphinan Uttamangkaphong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok: The French-made Mirage 2000-5 is superior to the US-made F18 jet fighter that the Royal Thai Air Force [RTAF] plans to purchase, according to the French manufacturer of the Mirage.

A group from Dassault Aviation Co was in Bangkok yesterday to show the RTAF one of its latest hi-tech aircraft — the Rafale BO1 jet — claimed the Mirage has greater capabilities than the F18.

"If Thailand were to buy eight Mirage 2000-5s, only 50 maintenance personnel would be needed compared with 250 for eight F18s," Dassault International technical director Thierry Prunier Prunier said.

He added that low visibility and radar performance were also areas in which the Mirage outperformed the F18. "In combat, the first aircraft detected is the first one taken out," he said.

Dassault vice president for Asia and the Pacific, Jean Claude Girard, said the Mirage 2000-5 jet fighters have better high-tech weapons than the F18.

"F-18s have been flying for over 20 years," he said.

The RTAF is planning to buy eight F/A18 jets equipped with AIM 120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

The Air Force has threatened to buy the French-made Mirage 2000- 5s or the Russian-made SU35s instead if the United States refuse to sell F18s with Thai requirements.

The F18 jets are made by McDonnell-Douglas Aerospace Co and each aircraft costs US$ 35 million. The Dassault, one of the top-level European aircraft builders and the manufacturer of the well-known Mirage 2000-5 and Rafale jets, did not mention about the price of Mirage.

Pentagon announced recently it might probably offer F/A18 jets with Harpoon air-to-surface missiles to Thailand, without mentioning about the AMRAAM missiles, which Thai Air Force has made a condition in buying the F-18s.

Thailand: Burmese Civilians Cross Border To Flee Fighting

BK1202043596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tak — About 1,000 Burmese civilians yesterday fled to the western province to escape fighting inside Burma, Thai Border Patrol Police said.

Meanwhile, the Thai military in neighboring Mae Sariang District of Mae Hong Son province warned Thais to stop travelling by boat on the Moei river between Sop Moei and Tha Song Yang districts as a safety precaution.

The Thai Border Patrol Police (BPP) sources said the Burmese refugees — mostly women and children — were taking refuge in Ban Mae Woei and Ban Mae Tun in Tha Song Yang District. They fled because they feared getting caught in crossfire between warring Karen National Union (KNU) rebels and Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) renegades.

Members of the DKBA, who are mostly Buddhists, broke away from the predominantly Christian KNU mainstream last year to ally themselves with the Rangoon regime following internal conflicts.

About 200 KNU rebels from the 7th division attacked the DKBA's Naw Ta camp, about 80 km north of Tha Song Yang district on Saturday.

The fighting continued until yesterday. Reports of casualties were not available.

The BPP sources said the DKBA has threatened to attack Karen refugee shelters in Sop Moei District if the Karens do not return to Burma in one or two days.

Thai security forces posted along the border in Tha Song Yang District have been put on red alert.

A light reconnaissance plane was airborne yesterday to monitor the fighting.

Thailand: Spokesman Raises 'Concern' Over Malaysia's Border Wall

BK1302142796 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to newsmen in his capacity as Foreign Ministry spokesman, Suraphong

Chaiyanam, director of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, noted the reported Malaysian construction of a wall along the border intruding into Thai territory at Ban Khlong Kung, village group 3, Muang District of Satun Province. He said at the 7th meeting of the Joint Thai- Malaysian Border Committee in January 1995, Malaysia informed Thailand of its plan to build a wall to partition the border in seven areas opposite Satun, Songkhla, and Narathiwat. The concrete wall would be 10-ft high and built 35 meters inside Malaysian territory. Malaysia claimed that the reason for the wall was to deter and suppress smuggling along the border. The Thai side made known its concern that the wall could affect border delineation at the mouth of Perlis river in Satun Province which was still a contentious issue between Thailand and Malaysia.

Regarding fears that the wall could be used by Malaysia to claim new sea boundaries, Suraphong said this is impossible because Thailand and Malaysia already have an agreement that was effective from 15 July 1982, on sea boundaries both in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea. He said Malaysia should consider the fact that it is a close neighbor of Thailand and that both belong to the same regional community.

Thailand: Karen Refugees Relocated Further Away From Border

BK1302091796 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tak Province has accelerated its efforts to resolve the attacks on the temporary shelter at Ban So Kro that houses Karens who have fled the fighting in Burma. A total of 3,491 Karens from some 596 families have been moved 1,200-2,000 meters from the border.

According to Tak Deputy Governor Sa-ne Chaloemphon, foreign forces have attacked the Karens at the temporary shelter at Ban So Kro, village group 1, Mae Sot District. In the latest incident, on 30 January, foreign forces attacked Thai villagers in Ban Usu, Mae Tan Subdistrict, Tha Song Yang District, killing three Thais. As a result, the provincial administration undertook preventive measures by moving the Karens in village groups 1 and 7 to join other Karen refugees in village groups 3 and 4. A total of 3,491 Karens from some 596 families were involved in the move.

Sa-ne said the relocation of the Karen refugees is an excellent measure. The Karens have been moved from their previous shelters stretching for 2 km along the bank of Moei River to an area some 1.2 km from the border. It is therefore easier to provide security. Also, the relocated Karens have been registered to facilitate control and check their true numbers.

Thailand: Army Commander: Burma To Be Asked To Compensate Deaths

BK1302061396 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rangoon junta will be asked to take responsibility for casualties from border incursions by minorities, Third Army Commander Lt-Gen Thanom Watcharaphuk.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] could not deny responsibility for raids launched from Burma, he said.

Last year, Rangoon demanded that Thailand take responsibility for raids launched from Thai soil.

Lt-Gen Thanom called on Supreme Commander Gen Wirot Saengsanit who had expressed concern at last month's border skirmishes in Tha Song Yang, Tak, in which SLORC-backed renegade Karen killed three Thais.

The Chunlachomklao Military Academy Class 9 member said the SLORC would be urged to make itself accountable at the 11th Regional Border Committee meeting scheduled for Moulmein on Feb 1922.

The SLORC has denied responsibility for the assault in Tak, claiming it could not control renegades of the Democratic Buddhist Karen Army.

Gen Wirot said the SLORC was expected to demand 43 million baht in compensation for the deaths of three Burmese in 1995 in Thachilek when Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army launched an assault from Mae Sai.

Thailand: Defense Minister on Malaysian Wall: 'This Is Not Right'

BK1402090896 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 96 p A5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said yesterday that the government would keep trying to persuade Malaysia to stop building a border wall close to Satun province for fear that it will encroach on Thai territory.

"We have reports that Malaysia is still building the wall. This is not right, we will have to ask them to stop," Chawalit said.

Democrat MP Thanin Chaisamut (Satun) voiced concern that if Malaysia continued with the project in Tambon Puyu of Satun's Muang district, Thailand might lose the Tuchmana and Terutao islands.

He said Terutao was surveyed for oil by a foreign company and found to have crude oil deposits.

Thanin called on the government to take action and ensure that Malaysia halts construction. He said, so far, Malaysia had been indifferent to Thai requests to stop its operation.

He said high-ranking Malaysian government officials from Perlis had paid regular visits to the site. Malaysia also continues to send labour to the construction site, he claimed.

"I will fight against any attempts to take our precious islands. I will bring the issue to Parliament if the government neglects this situation," he said.

The Supreme Command said in its report to the Cabinet yesterday that construction of the wall was going ahead in Malaysia and expressed the fear that any further extension could result in an intrusion on Thai soil.

On Sunday, Fourth Army Region Commander Panthep Phuwanatnurak voiced concern over the possibility of encroachment at the controversial site if construction continued.

Although, Malaysia had not yet encroached, he said that the current construction line was not parallel with Thailand's border posts and there was a strong possibility of a major dispute taking place if construction continued, he added.

Local officials and villagers have charged that the construction line could encroach on islands where swallows' nests have become a major and lucrative industry as they are the main ingredient for birds' nest soup, an Asian delicacy.

Satun Marine Police Inspector Pol Maj [Police Major] Anusat Tosing played down the presence of Malaysian naval ships seen near the construction site saying that Thailand and Malaysia were still on good terms.

"It is not a military move. They are just patrolling their border as usual," he said.

Supreme Commander Wirot Saengsanit said the Foreign Ministry must first negotiate with Malaysia before any military involvement.

Thanin said it would be difficult to take the islands as Thailand and Britain had signed a treaty in 1909 stating that they belonged to Thailand, and Malaysia should honour the treaty.

Thailand: Further on Foreign Ministry's 'Concern' Over Malaysian Wall

BK1402053096 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 96 p A5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday expressed concern over Malaysia's decision to construct a three-metre concrete wall along the Thai Malaysian border, saying it could create a "psychological barrier" between two friendly countries.

"The construction of such a wall has the tendency to create a psychological barrier," said Suraphong Chaiyanam from the Foreign Ministry. "The word 'wall' in any language conveys a meaning of separation," he added.

Malaysia insisted the wall was essential to the economic development of the local economies because it would prevent illegal cross-border trade, Suraphong said.

He added that history has indicated that countries having problems with their neighbours tended to build walls.

"For friendly countries, especially countries that are members of ASEAN and that already have strong ties, such a construction is somewhat unusual," he said.

Suraphong referred to the Great Wall of China and the Berlin Wall as the two most well-known walls in the world and commented that "we all know what happened to the Berlin Wall and why it was built in the first place."

Thailand had already expressed concern to Malaysia over construction of the wall at the last Thai-Malay Joint Commission and had stated it was Malaysia's sovereign right to do so because it was on their territory, according to Suraphong.

He dismissed the allegation that the barrier may lead to maritime demarcations. He said Thailand and Malaysia have already agreed on demarcations in both the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand.

Prime Minister Banhan Sinlpa-acha yesterday said the Foreign Ministry and Defence Ministry reaffirmed that the construction of the wall by Malaysian authorities was on Malaysian soil.

However he said the Foreign Ministry had been instructed to talk to the Malaysian side and look into the facts surrounding the case and verify where the boundary was to alleviate the present tension and to avoid further misunderstanding.

About 90 per cent of all border demarcations between the two countries have been agreed upon by the two governments.

Meanwhile, Suraphong said the upcoming Joint Border Committee meeting was scheduled for Feb 19-22 at Moulemein, Burma. He said the meeting will be conducted at Army regional commander level.

A Foreign Ministry source said the meeting will act as a "barometer" in determining the positions of the two governments.

He said it would address the dispute at Victoria Point that resulted in the murder of some Burmese fishermen, resuming construction of the Friendship Bridge across the Moei River and drug kingpin Khun Sa.

Thailand: NSC Chief Meets Cambodian Counterpart; Views Malaysia Wall

BK1202160096 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Samdech Son Sann, Cambodia's national adviser, paid a call on Secretary General of the National Security Council [NSC] General Charan Kunlawanit. They discussed the continuous fighting inside Cambodia and its affect on the Thai border. The Cambodian visitor said he wished his country could achieve a real democracy, and hoped that the problem would soon be resolved.

During an interview about the border wall being built by Malaysia that intruded into Thai territory in Satun Province, General Charan Kunlawanit said he had checked with the Army Survey Department and the Treaties Department and found that there was a clear-cut border demarcation line between Thailand and Malaysia.

A report from Satun Province says Malaysia is expediting the construction of the border wall at Ban Khlong Kung, and that no agreement has been made with Thailand to stop the construction.

Satun MP [Member of Parliament] Sanan Suthakun said he was gathering information about Thailand's border treaties with England for the Foreign Ministry and members of the House Committee of Foreign Affairs who will be making a fact-finding trip there. The MP said he feared that once the wall is completed, Thailand risks losing Tarutao and Brasamana Islands to Malaysia.

Thailand: Deputy Army Commander: Trawlers 'Should Arm Themselves'

BK1202052396 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 12 Feb 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Chettha Thanacharo yesterday said that Thai fishermen should arm themselves for self-defense but not for revenge on Burmese crewmen.

He said Thai crew have to equip their boats with arms because of the danger of pirates in the international waters and there are fishermen with many nationalities.

"It risks their lives, sailing into waters without weapons," he said, however if they accidentally violate into the Burmese waters they should not try to escape or resist.

Unlike the situation in the Gulf of Thailand where trawlers are not advised to arm themselves.

Thai-Malaysian fishery dispute lingers on despite the two countries' effort to solve the crisis. Thai trawlers were advised to respect Malaysian laws which post a capital punishment on arms offence.

Malaysia recently launched more armed patrol boats in a security measure to prevent foreign ships from violating its territorial waters.

Two Thai fishermen were shot dead by Malaysian navy late last year.

Gen Chetta said Malaysia has the right to protect its waters so as Thailand.

Thailand: Shan Civilians Cross Border To Escape Burmese Army Abuse

BK1402040996 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Feb 96 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mae Hong Son — About 200 Shan civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly, crossed the Thai-Burmese border into this province yesterday to escape harsh treatment by Burmese troops at Ho Mong in Shan State, according to a senior Thai official.

After drug warlord Khun Sa and his Mong Tai Army [MTA] surrendered to Rangoon in January, Ho Mong was put under the control of some 5,000 Burmese soldiers.

The official quoted the refugees as saying that their men had been forced to work as porters and their women raped by Burmese soldiers.

Fearing for their safety, Shan villagers at Ban Mai Huoha and Ban Mae O-luang yesterday decided to escape into Thailand at Ban Rakthai (Mae-O Village) in Mae Hong Son's Tambon Mok Champae.

The Naresuan Task Force was keeping a close watch on the refugees who had settled about 300 metres from the Thai village.

The headman of Ban Huoha, identified only as Wan, 58, said the Burmese had forced young Shan villagers to serve as porters. Those who resisted were physically assaulted or even shot dead, he added.

Meanwhile, a source in the MTA said Khun Sa had paid frequent visits to Rangoon, especially to meet Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt, secretary- general of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

To reward Khun Sa for his surrender, the SLORC has agreed to provide a house in Rangoon for him, said the source who requested anonymity.

The source said the junta also agreed to build living quarters for Khun Sa followers.

Khun Sa and five of his soldiers last visited Rangoon on February 5 to check the progress of construction of the living quarters, the source said.

Thailand: KR Guerrillas Said Using Drug Money To Finance War

BK1302060196 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Feb 96 p A2

[Report by Piyanat Sriwalo]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khmer Rouge guerrillas in Cambodia are increasing their involvement in drug trafficking to finance their fight against the Cambodian government, PM's [Prime Minister] Office Minister Prasong Buranaphong said yesterday.

The guerrillas are acting in similar fashion to Burma's drug warlord Khun Sa, who fed and armed his now-defunct Mong Tai Army with money from narcotic sales, Prasong claimed.

The comments came after Prasong, who oversees the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), met with Giorgio Giacomelli, executive director of the United Nations Drug Control Programme.

Giacomelli was visiting Bangkok on the last leg of an official tour which also included Laos, Burma, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"Mr. Giacomelli and I agreed that the Khmer Rouge will involve themselves more and more in drug smuggling as they need large sums of money to purchase weapons to fight against a legitimate government," he said.

The Cambodian government outlawed the Khmer Rouge after it rejected a peace pact it signed with three other warring factions in 1991. The guerrillas have, so far, survived by profits from illegal logging and gems mining in their stronghold of Pailin, which is close to Thai province of Chanthaburi.

Prasong quoted Giacomelli as saying that coping with drug trafficking in Burma and Cambodia was more complicated and difficult than in Thailand.

"Giacomelli told me that the governments of those countries have not paid enough attention to the problem due to recent civil wars or internal political conflicts," Prasong said.

Giacomelli was also informed about the drug problem in Thailand. Even though Khun Sa recently surrendered to the Burmese government, some ethnic Burmese are still continuing to produce narcotics.

Thailand: Official Notes Human Rights 'Compromise' Ahead of ASEM

BK1402091096 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Feb 96 p A5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asian and European Union countries reached a compromise at a meeting last week in Rome over how issues of human rights will be discussed and presented in the first Asia- Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Foreign Ministry's deputy permanent secretary said.

Sarot Chawanawirat said other issues still had to be dealt with before leaders of the 25 countries meet on March 1 and 2 in Bangkok.

He also briefed envoys from ASEM participants about the results of the Rome meeting, where he represented Asia. The senior official said the EU had agreed to the wording to be used in the chairman's statement over human rights.

The EU had initially proposed the inclusion of the 1993 Vienna Declaration on Human Rights and its programme of action. However, it agreed to Asia's proposal, backed by China, that the statement reflect the United Nation's declarations over the past few years, such as the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, the 1995 Social Summit in Copenhagen and the Beijing Conference on Women.

Sarot met Antonio Neopolitano, the Italian foreign ministry ambassador responsible for Asia and EU representatives, last Thursday in Rome to inform him of the position of the 10 Asian nations following their foreign ministers' meeting in Phuket on Feb 1-2.

"We (Asia and the EU) have been able to settle most of the issues, with only three or four other important ones remaining, including the wording regarding the (Nuclear) non-Proliferation Treaty, the United Nations and a strategy in foreign relations," he said.

Sarot pointed out to the EU delegates Asia's concerns that human rights issues might jeopardise the constructive atmosphere of the meeting. He said the topic could be raised, but only within certain limits so as to not overshadow the main objectives of the summit.

The 10 Asian countries participating the seven ASEAN members, plus Japan, China, South Korea, are concerned that human rights could become a major stumbling block and used as a political tool. They concluded that it would be more appropriate that a general statement of various UN declarations be reflected.

Thailand: Danish Prime Minister To Skip ASEM for 'Personal Reasons'

BK1402090796 Bangkok THAILAND TIMES in English 14 Feb 96 p A1

[Report by Thichakon Khrupan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangkok — Thailand's attempts to get Danish Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen to attend the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok next month have failed, with the Danish premier refusing to give way.

Thai Ambassador to Copenhagen Rangsan Phahonyothin yesterday confirmed that Rasmussen would be absent for reasons which are still unclear.

The ambiguous "personal reasons" cited by Rasmussen via Italy, representatives for the European nations, has inevitably disappointed Thailand, who will host the historic summit on 1-2 March.

The ambassador denied press reports that the "personal reasons" have to do with domestic politics or the approaching general election.

"He has his own personal reasons in which we don't want to meddle," Rangsan told Thailand Times from his office in Copenhagen.

However, Phondet Worachat, the Thai Embassy's minister-counselor to Brussels, yesterday quoted Italy as saying that Rasmussen's election campaign was certainly among his reasons for not coming to Bangkok. "Italy also has been trying to convince the premier, but he persists in his decision. We should have a heart and understand his position since domestic politics is a sensitive issue," Phondet told us.

The ambassador said it was only to be expected that one or more leaders out of 25 would not be able to make the summit for one reason or another.

Denmark's Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen will be attending ASEM in Rasmussen's place.

Thailand was first informed that the Dane could not attend at a planning meeting between Foreign Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Sarot Chawanawirat and the representative of the European nations, Antonio Neopolitano, the Italian Ambassador attached to the Foreign Ministry, in Rome last week.

Bangkok then asked Neopolitano to try to convince Rasmussen to come, desperate to save ASEM's credibility and avoid setting an unfavorable precedent.

However, a Foreign Ministry official who requested anonymity said it was the Europeans not the Thai hosts who were in a difficult position.

"Thailand has not been dishonored and there's no reason for us to feel ashamed. It's Sweden [as published] who needs to give us a better reason for their premier's absence," said the official.

Rasmussen is the third European leader to excuse himself from the first-ever ASEM, following the Spanish and Swedish premiers.

Spain's general election falls on 3 March, preventing Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez's appearance in person. Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said it was inappropriate for him to participate in the summit since he is going to resign from his position in the middle of March.

Apart from the three European leaders, no-one else has dropped out so far.

At the ground-breaking summit, Asian and European leaders will meet for the first time to discuss future relations between the two continents.

Asia will be represented by the seven member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with China, Japan and South Korea, while the European side will consist of 15 European Union countries and the President of the European Commission, Jacques Santer.

Thailand: Editorial Maintains People Would Never Allow Coup Attempt

BK1402010096 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 13 Feb 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Some People's Stupid Idea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. San Hatthirat, president of the Federation of Democracy, last week stunned politicians and general public when he released a piece of information that could have a frightening effect on the current atmosphere of democracy in the country.

Dr. San told a news conference at Majestic Hotel on 10 February that a military officer planned to stage a coup d'etat to topple the elected government of Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha.

It was unlikely that the medical doctor turned politician was making a "joke" because he has never shown that kind of behavior before. He also cited several incidents as evidence to substantiate his claim that the planned power seizure would take place after the royal cremation ceremony for the late princess mother.

Dr. San himself appealed to the "military officer" to discard the coup idea because it would coincide with the 50th anniversary of the accession to the throne of His Majesty the King and constitute blasphemy and disregard for the monarch. This political mishap would also aggravate the country's economic and social conditions.

Dr. San Hatthirat went on to say that he urged other military commanders to convince the officer about the adverse consequences of a coup d'etat, stressing that the Thai people and mass organizations would never allow anything to happen that would undermine the country's democratic form of administration. He recalled the incident when "the army radio" called for a coup d'etat in the middle of 1995 during which a number of people and various organizations declared that they would resort to all ways and means to resist such an action. They even pledged to lie in the streets to form human barriers against military tanks.

It is believed that should a coup d'etat really take place early this year as disclosed by Dr. San Hatthirat, the country would be plunged into chaos. There would undoubtedly be great bloodshed.

Our country is in the process of development. We do not believe that any group coup maker would be able to keep the situation in the country under control.

The people have experienced all forms of power seizure including those staged by the so-called "revolutionary" or "National Peacekeeping Councils." They have come to realize that those coup makers could not do anything more than tearing up the constitution, appointing a constitution drafting committee, toppling the government, dissolving the parliament, promulgating a new constitution, and holding a general election. The people in the entire country are so fed up with these repeated events. Therefore, we want to warn all potential coup makers to refrain from "digging their own graves" in such a repugnant manner.

Thailand: Military Reshuffle List Involves 36 Officers

BK1302112796 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 12 Feb 96

["Announcement of the Prime Minister's Office on Appointment of Military Officers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A royal decree has been issued for the following military officers to perform royal services:

1. General Narudon Detpradiyut, to be chairman of the Supreme Command Advisory Board;

2. Gen. Ariya Ukhotkit, to be chairman of the Army Advisory Board;

3. Lieutenant General Akhadet Sasipraphat, to be chief of staff officers attached to the defense minister;

4. Lt. Gen. Thani Klamphasut, to be chief of staff officers attached to the defense permanent secretary;

5. Lt. Gen. Samphan Bunyanan, to be director of the Defense Budget Office;

6. Lt. Gen. Winit Thettawisan, to be deputy director of the Defense Industry and Military Energy Center;

7. Lt. Gen. Aphichai Warunprapha, to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the defense minister;

8. Lt. Gen. Thotsarot Muang-am to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the defense minister;

9. Major General Sunthon Khamphirayan, to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the defense permanent secretary;

10. Maj. Gen. Sathian Michaisup, to be deputy director of the Defense Budget Office;

11. Maj. Gen. Songkhram Emphan, to be deputy director of the Defense Policy and Planning Office;

12. Air Vice Marshal Kasem Inchan, to be chief of staff officers attached to the deputy defense permanent secretary;

13. Maj. Gen. Chaichaloem Chieosothon, to be chief of staff officers attached to the deputy defense permanent secretary;

14. Rear Admiral Suphan Suphasamut, to be chief of staff officers attached to the deputy defense permanent secretary;

15. Maj. Gen. Wichit Yathip, to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the defense minister;

16. Maj. Gen. Wirot Phonprasoetsuk, to be chief of the Office of the Defense Industry Board, Military Industry Department;

17. Maj. Gen. Phisit Pasanphan, to be specialist, Office of the the Defense Permanent Secretary;

18. Air Vice Marshal Phanlop Bunsup, to be chief of staff of the Military Industry Department;

19. Maj. Gen. Prasoet Chomthawon, to be specialist, the Supreme Command;

20. Maj. Gen. Manunphon Khongchinda, to be specialist, the Supreme Command;

21. Maj. Gen. Chailak Chantharinthu, to be specialist, the Supreme Command;

22. Maj. Gen. Chayut Suwanmat, to be specialist, the Supreme Command;

23. Maj. Gen. Sunthon Misawat, to be specialist, the Army;

24. Maj. Gen. Thanu Chaisenabandit, to be specialist, the Army;

25. Maj. Gen. Chawengsak Palakawong na Ayutthaya, to be specialist, the Army;

26. Colonel Sunthon Khamkhongkun, to be aide of the prime minister;

27. Col. Wichai Kaeokamon, to be assistant director of the Defense Policy and Planning Office;

28. Col. Pinrat Siphet, to be director of the Defense Policy and Planning Office;

29. Col. Kritsada Tengsuwan, to be staff officer attached to the defense minister;

30. Col. Somsak Nakrop, to be staff officer attached to the Office of the Defense Permanent Secretary;

31. Captain Wichai Chuthaphakdiprasoet, to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the deputy defense permanent secretary;

32. Col. Phisan Watthanawongsiri, to be staff officer attached to the defense minister;

33. Col. Wutthichai Phonphibun, to be assistant chief of staff officers attached to the deputy defense permanent secretary;

34. Col. Sombun Thikhasap, to be staff officer attached to the defense minister;

35. Col. Worakrit Yaemwibun, to be staff officer attached to Office of the Defense Permanent Secretary;

36. Col. Somchai Wirunhaphon, to be aide of the defense minister and specialist of the Army.

Announced on 12 February 1996.

Vietnam

SRV: Thai Lower House Delegation Visits

BK1002161496 Hanoi VNA in English
1603 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.10 — Talks were held here today between a delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly [NA] led by Chairman Nong Duc Manh and a delegation of the Thai National Assembly led by chairperson Bun-eua Prasoetsuwan who is also president of the lower house.

The Thai NA delegation arrived here this afternoon as guest of NA Chairman Nong Duc Manh for a five-day visit to Vietnam.

Chairman Manh expressed his pleasure at the fine development of the friendship and cooperation in recent years between the legislatures and people of the two countries which share similarities in geography, customs and habits and which are both members of the ASEAN and AIPO. [Asean Inter Parlimentary Organization] He said that the visits by high-level delegations of the two countries have contributed to improving the quality and effectiveness of these relations.

He warmly welcomed the great achievements recorded by the Thai people and expressed the Vietnamese people's admiration for the strong development of Thailand's economy in recent years.

'We always attach importance to the strengthening of the friendship and cooperation with Thailand. Our two countries have great potential for mutual supplement and many fields for mutual cooperation in order to bring about great results. This conforms to the interests of the two countries and positively contributes to ohe trend of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world at large,' the Vietnamese leader stressed.

Chairman Manh highly valued the current visit by Mr. Bun-eua Prasoetsuwan and his party, describing it as an event of great significance and a new manifestation of the friendship and cooperation betleen the legislatures and people of the two countries.

The Thai N.A. chairperson and his delegation also exchanged views with the Vietnamese side on many issues of mutual concern.

After the talks, Chairman Manh hosted a banquet in honour of Mr. Bun-eua Prasoetsuwan and his party.

SRV: Hanoi Reports EU Approval of Cooperation Pact

BK1002161296 Hanoi VNA in English
1551 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.10 — The parliament of the European Union has approved the Vietnam-EU cooperation pact signed in Brussels on July 18 last year.

The pact received an initial endorsement earlier in the month when the majority of members voted in its favour, according to the Vietnamese embassy in belgium.

Many members of the parliament praised Vietnam for its achievements recorded during Doi Moi. [renovation]

Among the mps were european commission vice president, Manuel Martin, and president of the EU parliament's External Economic Relations Committee, de Clerk.

They said they were very impressed with Vietnam's successes in the economic field and in its pursuit of dynamic and broadranging open-door external policies.

The MPs stressed the significance of the EU parliament's adoption of the cooperation pact with Vietnam. They said that it would create a legal framework favourable for business people from the European Union to do business in Vietnam, a country with a population of nearly 80 million.

Vietnamese garment exporters will be among those enjoying the first benefits from the pact's approval, according to the domestic business community.

The garment industry has become one of Vietnam's major hard currency export earners and the new system of quotas to the EU has given further impetus to their export drive.

When Vietnam first gained access to EU markets back in 1993, exports totalled USD 25 million. Last year exports to the EU avounted to USD 35 million and accounted for half of Vietnam's total garment export value, according to the Ministry of Industry.

SRV: Radio Hails EU Approval of SRV-EU Cooperation Pact

BK1102161296 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 9 Feb 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Parliament in early February approved an agreement between the European Union and Vietnam. The Voice of Vietnam comments:

The agreement on Vietnam-European Union cooperation was signed back in July last year. Since then, relations between Vietnam and the European Union and its member countries have been rapidly developing. In 1995, witnessed many visits to Vietnam by high level delegations from EU member countries. They included the visit of Mr. Martin, vice chairman of the European Commission. Many Vietnamese delegations also visited European Union member countries and the European Union headquarters. It has helped promote the bilateral comprehensive ties between Vietnam and the EU and its member countries, making them worth for all.

Two-way trade turnover reached $1.5 billion in 1995, in which Vietnam's textile export to the EU grossed $280 million. The figure is expected to reach $300 million in 1996. The EU also provided Vietnam with $20 million aid for technical programs in the transitional period to market economy and also to banking auditing, forestry, insurance, and anti-drug addiction programs.

Noteworthy is the European Union grants $100-million aid for the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees, including $75 million in loans for small and medium sized projects. Most recently, the European Union helped Vietnam with $14 million to implement health, educational, scientific, and technical projects. The European Union plans to help Vietnam with another $25 million to implement projects to preserve and develop a primitive forest in Nghe An province in Central Vietnam.

At the meeting of the European Parliament in Belgium in February, many prestigious leaders such as Mr. Martin, vice chairman of the European Commission and Mr. de Clerk, chairman of the Sub-committee for External Economic Relation of the European Parliament praised Vietnam's achievements in economic reform and open-door diplomatic policy. They held that the approval of the agreement by the European Parliament would create legal foundation for EU businesses to invest in Vietnam and open a new stage in bilateral cooperation.

SRV Deputy Prime Minister Meets Belgian Leaders

BK1102063196 Hanoi VNA in English
1612 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.10 — Deputy Prime Minister [P.M.] Tran Duc Luong paid an official visit to Belgium from Feb. 5-9 at the invitation of the Belgium's government.

Deputy P. M. Luong was accompanied by Minister Dau Ngoc Xuan, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment Tran Dinh Khien, Vice Minister of Transport and Communications La Ngoc Khue, and Vice Chairman of the Haiphong People's Committee Tran Huy Nang.

Deputy P. M. Luong and his party were received by Belgian Prince Phillipe and Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene. They held separate talks with Deputy Prime Minister In Charge of Finance and Foreign Trade Phillipe Maystadt and Deputy Prime Minister In Charge of Economy Elio di Rupo. [titles as received] They worked with Foreign Minister Erik Derycke, and Secretary of State for Cooperation and Development Reginald Moreels, and met with Belgian business circle.

During the meetings, the two sides expressed their pleasure at the fine development of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries, especially after the Belgium visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in 1993 and the Vietnam visit by Prince Philippe in 1994.

The Belgian prince and prime minister hailed the great achievements in economics and external affairs recorded by the Vietnamese people, and expressed their belief in Vietnam's development. They affirmed the wish of Belgium as well as the European Union to develop multi-faceted cooperation with Vietnam, saying that the Belgian Government will continue granting priority aid to Vietnam to help it develop and will create favourable conditions for Belgian businessmen to boost their investment in and trading with Vietnam, serving as a bridge for Vietnam to get closer to the EU.

On this occasion, the Vietnamese delegation was informed of the Belgian Government's commitment of 450 million Belgian Francs for Vietnam in the 1996-98 period.

The deputy prime minister expressed the Vietnamese Government and people's sincere thanks to the valuable assistance given by the belgian Government and people and welcomed the Belgian Government's orientation to promote relations with the Asian region and Vietnam.

The two sides discussed means and ways to enhance bilateral economic and commercial cooperation including preparations for the signing of the two countries' agreement on double taxation avoidance and a cooperation agreement between Belgium's Economics Ministry and Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment.

On this occasion, Deputy Prime Minister Luong had working sessions with senior officials of the European Union. The two sides expressed satisfaction at the new steps of development in the relations between Vietnam and the EU since the signing of the frame agreement in July 1995. They were of the same view to convene the first session of the joint committee in june this year to discuss cooperation programme till the year 2000. They also exchanged views on the preparation for the Bangkok Asian-European conference.

SRV Communist Party Officials Visit Angola, Mozambique

BK1002155896 Hanoi VNA in English
1321 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.10 — A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Do Van Tai, deputy head of its External Relations Commission, paid working visits to Angola and Mozambique from Jan. 22-Feb.2.

These visits were made at the invitation of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola Workers' Party (MPLA) and the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo).

In Angola, the Vietnamese party delegation was received MPLA General Secretary Lopo do Nascimento and had working sessions with various MPLA Politburo members.

The delegation held talks with senior officials of MPLA Commission for External Relations and worked with a number of branches and organisations of the MPLA Central Committee (MPLA CC).

While in Mozambique, the second leg of its tour, the delegation was received by Mozambican Prime Minister Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi, Politburo member of the Frelimo Central Committee and other high- ranking Frelimo officials. It also held talks with a delegation of Frelimo .

At these sessions, the two party delegations expressed their desire to consolidate and strengthen the friendly and multi-faceted cooperative relationships between Vietnam and Angola and Mozambique.

SRV: Air Transport Agreement Signed With Egypt

BK1202074496 Hanoi VNA in English
0621 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.12 — Vietnam and Egypt signed an agreement on air transport co-operation here last week, according to a press release from the Egyptian Embassy in Hanoi.

Signatories to the agreement were Mohammed Abdel Moheim Khedr, general director of air transport, and his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Vu Hien, director of Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam.

Khedr was leading an Egyptian delegation on a six-day official visit to Vietnam that concluded yesterday.

Hany Saraf Eldin, the Egyptian ambassador to Vietnam, said that agreement will boost bilateral trade and tourist relations between the two countries to match excellent long-standing political ties.

SRV: Preparations for Provincial Party Congresses Reviewed

BK1302111896 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Party Central Committee Secretariat held a working session in Yen Bai on 11 and 12 February with the participation of Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Tuyen Quang, and Ha Giang provinces to review preparations for provincial-level party organization congresses. They also contributed views on the targets, tasks, and orientations for socioeconomic development and for the party building work of these mountain province party organizations during their 1996-2000 term of office.

Attending the session were Comrade Dao Duy Tung, ordinary and also standing member of the Political Bureau; Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the National Assembly; Comrade Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee; and representatives of various branches and offices of the state.

After hearing reports on the results of grass-roots party organization congresses at various levels, the draft reports, and other documents that will be presented at the provincial party organization congresses of Yen Bai, Lao Cai, Tuyen Quang, and Ha Giang, the comrades from the central level hailed the many achievements scored by the party organizations and multiethnic people of these four mountain provinces. These achievements include: promoting economic development, improving the people's livelihood, gradually alleviating hunger and poverty, improving the people's intellectual standard, maintaining political stability, consolidating national defense and security.

They also noted the areas that are still weak and contributed their views on mapping out the needed targets and tasks for the socioeconomic development for 1996-2000. These were done on the basis of the characteristics of the land, natural resources, climate, manpower, people's intellectual standard, and local market of each locality concerned. These were reviewed in order to carry out the industrialization needed to develop production and alleviate hunger and poverty in an effective fashion. All party organizations should link their economic development to improving the people's intellectual standard, protecting the environment, maintaining national defense security, improving the party's comprehensive leadership ability, concerning oneself with cadre training, and so forth.

SRV Politburo Discusses Party Congresses in Mekong Delta

BK1402093096 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The party Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat held a conference in Can Tho City on 10-13 February with representatives of 10 provinces in the Mekong River Delta, namely, Can Tho, Vinh Long, Tien Giang, Ben Tre, Dong Thap, An Giang, Kien Giang, Tra Vinh, Soc Trang, and Minh Hai, to discuss preparations for party organization congresses at the provincial level.

The conference heard reports by party committee secretaries of various provinces on the results of their discussion of the party political report at various level party organization congresses.

Many reports of the central departments, sectors, and leaders commended the party organizations and people of the Mekong River Delta provinces for their efforts in developing the socioeconomic situation during the past five years. Their revenue collections have increased remarkably. All provinces in the delta have successfully balanced their budgets and have increased procurements for the state. Party leaders attending the conference contributed many ideas on various tasks and pointed out weaknesses in the delta, which include the low intellectual standards of the people, the high number of illiterates, and the fact that 30 percent of the local children are malnourished and 70-80 percent of houses in the region are only temporarily built.

The conference urged party organizations of these provinces to strive to formulate plans and targets for socioeconomic development during the 1996-2000 term. Efforts must be made to optimally exploit the land, water, and labor potentials to triumphantly carry out national industrialization and modernization.

The conference unanimously agreed that it is essential to build the Mekong River Delta into a strong economic region to match its great potentials. More investment should be made to build up the infrastructure of Can Tho City. Efforts must be made to upgrade the city airfield into an international airport and the local port into a regional harbor. More roads from Ho Chi Minh City to Can Tho and other adjacent provinces must be built to make Can Tho a center for development of the whole region.

SRV: 85,900 New Party Members Admitted in 1995

BK1402041396 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Various basic party organizations in localities throughout the country admitted 85,900 new party members in 1995, an increase of 46.5 percent over 1994. This is the highest number of new party memberships admitted since 1986

Generally speaking, the party building task in 1995 recorded outstanding achievements both quantitatively and qualitatively. This has been manifested in the firm position and active leadership role of party organizations in carrying out the renovation undertaking and in implementing the party Central Committee's third plenum resolution on renovating and revamping the party, thereby strengthening the people's confidence in the party.

However, shortcomings are still prevalent in the party building task. These include the lack of a thorough understanding of how to develop the party in the new situation, especially at the grass- roots level and among party members. The party building task has not been carried out uniformly in various localities and at socioeconomic establishments while the proportion of new party members who are youths, students, and ethnic minorities is still low.

SRV: Vu Oanh Reviews Socioeconomic, National Security Tasks

BK1402090596 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau recently paid a working visit to Dong Nai and Ba Ria-Vung Tau Provinces.

Comrade Vu Oanh commended the party organizations and people of these two provinces for their efforts and achievements in developing the socioeconomic situation, strengthening national defense and security, and promoting mass mobilization work and other tasks. Specifically, he commended Dong Nai Province for building many effective production models and successfully carrying out the socioeconomic development task.

He also visited and reviewed the work at a number of agricultural and industrial establishments, observed activities at various schools, and studied work at various state agencies in the two provinces.

SRV Committee To Fight Corruption, Smuggling Set Up

BK1202075696 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 21 Jan 96 pp 1,4

[FBIS Translated Text] On 19 January Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet signed a decision to set up the Working Committee To Fight Corruption and Smuggling in order to help the government direct activities in this field. The working committee has the following duties and powers: Monitoring, inspecting, and supervising the enforcement of the anticorruption and antismuggling policies and measures of the government and of the prime minister by various ministries, ministerial-level organs, government organs, and province and city people's committees under the direct jurisdiction of the central authority; monitoring the activities of anticorruption and antismuggling committees belonging to various ministries, sectors, and localities; directly looking into various corruption or smuggling cases if assigned by the prime minister; achieving coordination between authoritative organs, ministries and sectors in anticorruption and antismuggling activities; helping the prime minister in his cooperation with the Supreme People's Organ of Control and the Supreme People's Court on anticorruption and antismuggling activities; and proposing measures to the prime minister that can be used to deal with:

— corruption and smuggling cases against which the authoritative sectors have taken different measures.

— corruption and smuggling cases for which various ministries, sectors, or province and city people's committees under the direct control of the central authority are seeking advice on how to deal with them.

The committee has the right to ask state organs, economic units, and military units, social organizations, and citizens to report, to provide information on, or to explain any issues relating to corruption and smuggling; and to ask various ministries, sectors, and authoritative organs to inspect, scrutinize, and investigate cases in which there are indications of corruption and smuggling. The committee also has the duty to issue information and reports on anticorruption and antismuggling activities.

The decision, which also deals with the organizational structure of the working committee and the use of its seal, went into effect as of the date of issue.

SRV: NHAN DAN Editorial Marks Tet Festival

BK1402094996 Hanoi VNA in English
0731 GMT 14 Feb 96

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Feb.14 — Humanity is preparing to conclude the last five years of the 20th century and enter into the promising 21st century, the national daily NHAN DAN says in an editorial for its Tet (lunar new year) issue, which prize [word indistinct] at the 1996 spring press festival.

The editorial says: 'For Vietnam, this is a period of decisive significance for the implementation of in implementing industrialisation and modernisation, to take the country out of poverty, thus, paving the way for the development in the following years with a view to obtaining the goal of a wealthy people, a strong country and a fair and civilized society'.

There are great opportunities, ahead but the challenges are not small. These opportunities and challenges interweave with each other, therefore we must firmly seize opportunities to overcome challenges and overcome challenges to seize opportunities. A great responsibility of the party is to encourage the entire people to uphold patriotism in the new situation with the determination to keep peace, independence, and sovereignty, persistently pursuing the socialist line, not to resign themselves to backwardness, to be left behind by others and become the motivating force of speeding up the development of the country. The country is developing rapidly but we want a rapid and durable development. Our economy is developing considerably and we want it to develop continuously and consistently together with the improvement of the people's cultural and spiritual life and ensuring social fairness. We are developing external exchanges and we will expand our international relations, simultaneously receiving the world's cultural quintessence and developing our traditional and typical culture. They are not easy problems and the process of carrying them out is not a path covered with flowers. It needs clear-sighted leadership, ardent sentiment and the skills of oarmen capable of rowing the boat (?of Vietnam) through all rapids and to keep it on the right path. That is an expression of Vietnam in the new stage.'

'Vietnam's wishes in spring, the beginning of a new year, must be translated into action. In order to make this wish come true, greater efforts must be exerted to gain greater achievements,' the editorial continues. It further says that corruption, wastefulness, and bureaucracy, are not only a danger but also a great threat to the country for these social evils will make our poor country poorer, decline people's trust — an invaluable strength of the country — in the authorities, and waste the determination of honest people who wishing to contribute their wisdom to the country, and therefore must be done away.

Australia

Australia: Opposition Supports U.S. Military Presence in East Asia

LD1002105896 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 10 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The opposition in Australia has released a foreign policy document which refers to the importance of the U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The spokesman for the coalition of the Liberal and National parties, Alexander Downer, outlined its policy in the runup to a general election to be held on 2 March. He said Australia would seek to ensure a continued U.S. military presence in East Asia as an American withdrawal could destabilize the strategic relationship between the major countries in the region. Mr. Downer also said that under a coalition government Australia would upgrade its military alliance with the United States while pursuing a defense policy of self-reliance.

The security aspects of the policy were within the context of Australia giving highest priority to closer engagement with Asia. He said the coalition rejected any anti-China power bloc and recognized the challenge to ensure that Beijing was able to view its own interests as being in harmony with those of the region. Mr. Downer said that under the policy Australia would seek to upgrade its relations with China, Japan, and South Korea. It would also strengthen relations with Indonesia, including the addition of a consulate in Surabaya and would encourage a reduction in the military presence in East Timor and more autonomy for the people of the former Portuguese colony.

Mr. Downer also said the coalition was committed to ensuring that the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum became effective and did not develop into a closed bloc.

Australia: Jakarta Embassy: No Asylum for 9 East Timorese

BK1102125196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A group of nine East Timorese in the Australian Embassy in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, have been told they do not qualify for political asylum in Australia. A spokeswoman for the embassy, (Jalan Ayers), said the seven men and two women had been told of the decision during the fourth day of talks with embassy officials. Miss. (Ayers) said the group had refused to accept food during their first three days at the embassy but they've done so for the first time early today. She said they had been told that their options include applying for visas to Australia then travelling to Portugal, the former colonial power in East Timor. Miss (Ayers) said the nine who entered the embassy on Wednesday [7 February] by climbing over a perimeter fence would spend tonight at the embassy.

Last month, two east Timorese women who entered the Australian Embassy were granted asylum in Portugal. In recent months, Portugal has accepted more than 60 East Timorese who have entered embassies in Jakarta.

Australia: Party Leaders Hold Televised Debate

LD1102135496 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 11 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Australian voters have finally been able to see a televised debate between Prime Minister [Paul] Keating and the opposition [Liberal-National coalition] leader, John Howard. After more than two weeks of being unable to agree on a format for the debate, the two appeared on the commercial Channel Nine network in an encounter moderated by current affairs host Ray Martin. National affairs correspondent Stuart Heather reports the debate was a lively exchange about major policy issues.

[Heather] Mr. Keating underlined the Labor Party's release earlier in the details of its funding for election promises, while Mr. Howard challenged his opponent to have the Treasury brief him on the state of the budget, suspected of moving into deficit. Mr. Howard attacked the Labor Party government's record on unemployment, especially among young people.

[Begin Howard recording] You have either been treasurer or prime minister of this country for the last 13 years and you cannot, by smug off-the-cuff remarks or anything else, avoid your personal responsibility. [end recording]

[Heather] Mr. Keating denied Mr. Howard's claim that he was an arrogant leader and said that, instead, it was arrogance of the opposition leader to be so close to the election without still having released significant policies, nor [details of] the funding of campaign promises.

[Begin Keating recording] The most arrogant thing you can do to the Australian community is not show them your policies. John has been elected now, leader of the Liberal Party, for 13 months. We are now 20 days away from the election. [end recording]

[Heather] Mr. Howard said the coalition opposition is about to release a health rebate policy costing [Australian] $500 million, about the same as the Labor Party's promised extension of health cover.

In Canberra, Stuart Heather for Radio Australia.

Australia: Labor Loses Majority in Queensland State Parliament

BK1202130796 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 12 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Australian State of Queensland, the Labor Party State Government led by Premier Wayne Goss will soon be going into opposition. This follows a decision by an independent parliamentarian Liz Cunningham to support the coalition opposition headed by the National Party's Rob Borbidge when parliament resumes on 5 March.

Mrs. Cunningham holds the balance of power after the recent Mundingburra state by-election in North Queensland left the coalition and labor with 44 seats each in the state parliament. Her decision means the coalition will have a majority of one in parliament.

Australia: Keating Promises Plebiscite on Republic if Reelected

LD1402102296 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 14 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Prime Minister Paul Keating has outlined his government's preferred method of moving to a republic. Mr. Keating said the government would ask the people what they think about the question: "Do you want an Australian to be Australia's head of state?" It would conduct a non-binding popular vote in the first year in office if reelected on 2 March. If the vote was carried, a parliamentary committee would consult widely with the states and the community and recommend a constitutional amendment to be put at a referendum. [passage omitted]

The opposition leader, John Howard, says Mr. Keating's proposal for a republican plebiscite would leave Australia in constitutional limbo. He said it would be a meaningless exercise. Mr. Howard has renewed his promise to have a constitutional convention on a republic if elected, rather than Mr. Keating's scheme. [passage omitted]

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